

SPORT

Rugby Union

Burgess restructuring proposals rejected by RFU committee

Peter West

The vote against the Burgess report for the restructuring of the English game was 10-9, with the majority of the Rugby Union committee in London yesterday rejecting a proposal for a new structure of the game.

The Burgess report, which was published in the 1980-81 season, proposed a restructuring of the game into three divisions: a top division, a second division, and a third division. The report also proposed a new system of promotion and relegation, and a new system of financial support for the game.

The RFU committee, which met yesterday, rejected the Burgess report by a vote of 10-9. The majority of the committee, including the majority of the players' representatives, voted against the report. The minority, which included the majority of the administrators, voted in favour of the report.

The Burgess report was a landmark document in the history of the English game. It was the first time that the game had been restructured in over 100 years. The report proposed a new system of promotion and relegation, and a new system of financial support for the game. It also proposed a new system of governance for the game.

The RFU committee's decision to reject the Burgess report is a significant setback for the game. It means that the game will remain in its current state, with no restructuring. This is a disappointment for many players and administrators, who believe that the game needs to be restructured in order to survive in the modern world.

Irish commitment looks decisive

Richard Sreeter

Irish commitment to the game looks decisive. The Irish players have shown a strong commitment to the game, and they are determined to win the championship. The Irish players have been training hard, and they are in good form. They are confident that they can win the championship, and they are determined to do so.

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Andy Irvine (centre) and his men stretch a leg after their journey south.

England should feel no inhibitions

By Peter West

The manner of Scotland's routing by England at Murrayfield a fortnight ago, as well as the production of a 15-point lead, has been a source of pride for the English players. The English players have shown a strong commitment to the game, and they are determined to win the championship. The English players have been training hard, and they are in good form. They are confident that they can win the championship, and they are determined to do so.

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Football

Sexton draws blame, but not from rivals

By Norman Fox

Football Correspondent

Charitable statements of support from rival managers are very rare, but today Dave Sexton is an exception. He is the manager of the team that lost to Manchester City in the FA Cup final, and he is being blamed for the loss. However, his rivals are not blaming him. They are praising his performance, and they are saying that he did everything that he could to win the game.

Sexton is a well-known manager, and he has a long history in the game. He has managed several teams, and he has won several trophies. He is a respected figure in the game, and he is being praised for his performance in the FA Cup final.

Birmingham prolong the agony for Norwich

By John Nicholls

Birmingham City 4 Norwich City 0

Birmingham City took an unaccountably long time to dispose of the feeble opposition provided by Norwich City in a match that was a one-sided affair. Birmingham City were in complete control from the start, and they scored four goals in the first half. Norwich City were unable to mount any resistance, and they were defeated 4-0.

The match was a disappointing one for Norwich City. They were out of sync from the start, and they were unable to score a goal. Birmingham City were in complete control, and they scored four goals in the first half. Norwich City were unable to mount any resistance, and they were defeated 4-0.

Points for resilient County

By Peter Walker

Cardiff City 1 Notts County 1

Cardiff City's victory over Notts County in the FA Cup was a testament to their resilience. Cardiff City were in a difficult position, but they fought back to score a goal in the second half. Notts County were unable to score, and they were defeated 1-0.

The match was a hard-fought one. Cardiff City were in a difficult position, but they fought back to score a goal in the second half. Notts County were unable to score, and they were defeated 1-0.

Last night's results

Division	Home	Score	Away
First division	Cardiff City	1	Notts County 1
Second division	Cardiff City	1	Notts County 1
Fourth division	Cardiff City	1	Notts County 1

night's time, one hopes, was
 taken into account.
 In the case declared inten-
 tioned to alter the tactical
 —making the selectors'—
 such even braver at this stage
 the winter—with greater
 ing fluency the backs. Mar-
 then to the second row
 1 the second row and the
 ed back row's capabilities
 a more realistic look at the
 even if Gareth Williams' on-
 from a flank position
 15 been adjudged to have
 at No. 8) is a surprise. The
 iment, though, to a running
 means that the backs will
 the heaviest responsibility.
 r. can have been awarded to
 Pearce at stand-off and
 1 Williams at scrum half, the
 g who have done so much to
 ish judged as the most
 sful Welsh club team. These
 re the only newcomers to
 at and passions of the inter-
 al side, the other changes
 whole, represent a reshuffle
 than a clear-out.
 se Llanelli players in the
 three-quarter line mean-
 club familiarity should ease
 out of quick understanding;
 all-backs will benefit from
 ing each other's play.

Today's teams at Cardiff

Wales		Ireland	
G. Evans	15	Full back	H. P. MacNeill
D. Richards	14	Right wing	P. J. O'Donnell
R. W. R. Gravel	13	Right centre	D. G. O'Leary
P. J. Morgan	12	Left centre	S. O. Campbell
D. J. Nicholas	11	Left wing	A. J. O'Leary
G. Williams	10	Stand-off	A. J. O'Leary
G. Williams	9	Scrum half	J. C. Robbie
A. J. Williams	8	Prop	P. J. O'Donnell
A. J. Williams	7	Hooker	P. J. O'Donnell
A. J. Williams	6	Prop	P. J. O'Donnell
A. J. Williams	5	Lock	M. P. Fitzgerald
A. J. Williams	4	Lock	M. P. Fitzgerald
A. J. Williams	3	Lock	M. P. Fitzgerald
A. J. Williams	2	Flanker	D. E. Spring
A. J. Williams	1	No 8	W. Duggan
A. J. Williams	0	Flanker	J. F. Slattery

REPLACES: 15, W. Williams (Swansea), 16, W. Williams (Swansea), 17, G. Williams (Cardiff), 18, G. Williams (Cardiff), 19, G. Williams (Cardiff), 20, C. E. Davis (Newcastle), 21, C. E. Davis (Newcastle).

England				Scotland			
W. H. Hare (Leicester)	15	Full back		A. R. Irvine* (S. Hertford's F.P.)	15		
J. Cartson (Oxford)	14	Right wing		S. Hare (A.S.T.)	14		
C. R. Woodward (Oxford)	13	Right centre		J. M. Kenrick (A.S.T.)	13		
P. W. Dodge (Leicester)	12	Left centre		K. W. Robertson (Melrose)	12		
G. E. Davies (Liverpool)	11	Left wing		N. A. Rowan (Boroughmuir)	11		
G. E. Davies (Liverpool)	10	Stand-off		J. R. Davidson (Soham)	10		
S. J. Smith (Soham)	9	Scrum half		R. J. Laidlaw (Glasgow)	9		
S. J. Smart (Newbury)	1	Prop		J. Aiklen (Glasgow)	8		
F. A. Wheeler (Leicester)	2	Hooker		C. Deans (Glasgow)	7		
P. W. Dodge (Glasgow)	3	Prop		N. A. Rowan (Boroughmuir)	6		
W. B. Beaumont* (Fylde)	4	Lock		W. Cuthbertson (Gloucester)	5		
M. J. Colclough (Gloucester)	5	Lock		A. J. Tomes (Gloucester)	4		
N. C. Leavens (Melrose)	6	Flanker		J. A. Calder (Stewart's Melville)	3		
J. P. Scott (Cardiff)	7	No 8		J. Seattie (Hertford's F.P.)	2		
D. H. Cooke (Rangers)	7	Flanker		D. G. Leslie (Captain)	1		

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French plan their moves a public park pitch

French players have been training hard, and they are in good form. They are confident that they can win the championship, and they are determined to do so. The French players have been training hard, and they are in good form. They are confident that they can win the championship, and they are determined to do so.

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Miss Hoffman is outwitted, off court, by her brother

By Rex Bellamy

London yesterday morning and had made his "boax" call from Mayfair.

It is certain that on the second day of the championship Miss Hoffman was outwitted by her brother. She was outwitted by her brother, and she was outwitted by her brother. She was outwitted by her brother, and she was outwitted by her brother.

Cowdell's bout with world

Pat Cowdell's bout with the world No. 1, Bashew Sibaca, has been cancelled. Cowdell was scheduled to fight Sibaca, but the bout has been cancelled. Cowdell was scheduled to fight Sibaca, but the bout has been cancelled.

First division	
Aston Villa v Crystal Palace	
Brighton v Liverpool	
Everton v Coventry	
Ipswich v Wolverhampton	
Leeds v Sunderland	
Manchester City v Manchester U	
Middlesbrough v Stoke	
Nottingham Forest v Arsenal	
Southampton v West Brom	
Tottenham v Leicester	

Scottish premier division	
Aldrie v Aberdeen	
Celtic v Rangers	
Dundee Utd v Morton	
Partick Th v Kilmarnock	
St Mirren v Hearts	

Tomorrow	
Second division	
Fourth division	

SPORT

Cricket

Good sense prevails to benefit of Jackman

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Georgetown, Feb 20

The England cricket team lost their vice-captain today when Bob Willis flew back to England having bowled only seven overs on the tour. He will be replaced by Robin Jackman, who would have been in most people's side when it was first chosen. Jackman will be put on the first available flight to Georgetown.

Willis will be missed. It was because he is a particularly good bowler that he was chosen to have him out here, though it must have been against the selectors' better judgment to take such a chance with his fitness. More and more, it seems to me, the few marginal places in a touring side are becoming the captain's prerogative.

Once it had been established that Willis's left knee was not going to respond to treatment, three options were open to the tour committee. They could recommend to Lord's that the Willis place be left unfilled, or that an extra batsman (Athey for example) be sent for, or that one of the two standby fast bowlers, Jackman and Hogg, should come out. In the event, justice and good sense have prevailed and Lord's is given a well-deserved chance.

Hogg, currently playing club cricket in Melbourne on a Whitebread scholarship, has been playing only moderate success there. To have preferred him to Jackman, whose bag of 121 wickets last season has only once been surpassed (by Lance Gibbs in 1971) since the reduction of championship matches in 1969, would have been downright unfair. At 35 Jackman is old to be coming to the West Indies at short notice to bowl at Richards and he is not the same bowler who got much of the way of bounce but he has done a lot of bowling and he is very keen and very fit.

The position of the selectors, which is the gift of the selectors at home, is to be left open, for the moment at any rate. It would probably be a good idea to be sure of a regular place in the Test side, which he is not. When, briefly, Botham left the field in the Test match last Saturday, Miller took charge, though Boy-



Jackman: very keen and very fit.

cott Old and Gooch were all playing last week for Tom Miller. I would appoint Boycott. Boycott will have to play a leadership part in doing it. And it was up to him the team would have been put to work yesterday, if only to bring them all together after the fast-paced point of the previous day—especially as today was always going to be spent travelling. Instead, some took the trouble to have a bat or a bowl and some could not be bothered.

Jackman delighted: "I feel very sorry for Bob but obviously I'm delighted to go because this will be my first official tour," Jackman said. (The Press Association reports) I want to be a bowler. I've been to Rhodesia or South Africa for the past 12 years. Last season I felt I was bowling better than I have at any time in my career and I hope I can do a good job in the West Indies. I was asked to be the Test match last Saturday, Miller took charge, though Boy-

regular running and indoor nets with Surrey. He has made five appearances for England in Prudential Trophy one-day internationals, two against India in 1974, one against West Indies in 1976 and two against Australia in 1980—but he has never been in the Test side. He was made twelfth man for the Centenary Test match. He has played for Western Province and Rhodesia in first-class cricket and his best bowling performance remains the eight for 40 he took for Rhodesia against Natal at Durban eight years ago.

Willis said: "I bowled about 20 balls in the test yesterday and after about six I realized it wasn't going to be good. When I saw the local specialist he assured me that there was no damage to the knee joint and that it was rotational ligaments that were the trouble. Obviously I am shattered that the tour has to end for me in this way, although I am pleased that I have been kept in the side before the summer."

Golf

What a beautiful day for the man from Oklahoma

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles, Feb 20

The conditions were near perfect at the Riviera Country Club here and so were many of those playing. As a result 74 players were on the course, 31 were in the 60s and 10 were in the 50s. A slender one stroke lead over six others was Miller Barber, 66, who had a 65 in the 60s and 10 were in the 50s. A slender one stroke lead over six others was Miller Barber, 66, who had a 65 in the 60s and 10 were in the 50s.

Breathing down the neck of Morgan, an opportunist from Oklahoma, with 66s were Miller Barber, 66, who had a 65 in the 60s and 10 were in the 50s. A slender one stroke lead over six others was Miller Barber, 66, who had a 65 in the 60s and 10 were in the 50s.

Of the Britons, Michael King was best with a 68 and Nick Faldo, from Welwyn Garden City, finished one stroke behind. Faldo completed the first nine with a two under par 33 and the second in three under par 36. Tony Jacklin, who had a 65 in the 60s and 10 were in the 50s. A slender one stroke lead over six others was Miller Barber, 66, who had a 65 in the 60s and 10 were in the 50s.

The way things went in the warm sunshine with a breeze, it might take even par to make the cut. I don't think Riviera is going to give up a whole lot more, noted Morgan, who won the Los Angeles Open in 1978. The greens were better than I expected. I imagine they'll be firm by the weekend.

Morgan held his precarious first place after taking the lead late in the day with two 20ft putts at the 16th and 18th holes. At the close of play after Peter Jacobsen, on a 20th hole, Jack Nicklaus on 71, noted: "This is getting to be ridiculous. This is nothing but a putting contest. We ought to all sit up at the putting green and save the walking."

Two of the tournament's main attractions, Tom Watson and Lee Trevino, are both on the brink of being cut from the final two rounds. J. Miller, who knows the feeling of being on top and sliding at the wire, was apprehensive for his golf.

Latest European snow reports

Depth (cm) Conditions Weather (mm)

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Saturday Review



Flora Annie Webster in 1867

Writing behind the curtains

by Violet Powell

When Flora Annie Steel sailed from Bombay in 1889 she was returning hand with her husband, life which would, in be that of the wife of ed Indian Civil Servant. id, it is true, left a repu- behind her as an Inspec- of Schools, famous hout the Punjab for her sness of bureaucratic. She had also some re- is the co-author of a use- domestic handbook, *The ste Indian Housekeeper ook*. But at 40 years of ere was little to suggest- se was about to develop novelist whose master- in the Indian Mutiny has unchallenged for its y until today.

in 1847 of Lowland and West Highland s, Flora Annie Webster arried at the age of 21 a d who had nearly bolted way to the altar, a panic by the bride. Thus un- ously united, the young had at once sailed for a drastic initiation which t them many years of ad- and happiness in each company.

he start Henry Steel's s were at stations in the where few Europeans o be found. Fascinated strange new world, Flora came involved in native life with an intensity is unusual, if not unique, the wives of Indian s. Although without for- lution, Flora had ab- a library of medical n her Fortarshire home, d had a sound musical z, and she was also a sive sketcher.

lacking in self-confi- Flora was willing to doc- sick of her husband's while her musical gifts useful in churches, in and in concerts which d morale during epi- For these she painted, and wherever she trav- sketch book was filled t impressions of people, t and plants. Once, only with her pencil, she nfronted by a wild pig, hen she took a step to- im, fled in terror. Many who had to confront Mrs t her most intransigent have sympathized with s reaction.

her husband moved from to posting Flora, to dialects came easily, herself with setting up, first for boys, and later ls, when her neighbours at she respected local cul- ls she studied the vari- s of each district, her un- interest made her and respected by the s she doctored and s her own early married s saddened by the birth still-born child, s remained with her ever securing as a theme in er Indian novels and in with a European back-

Steel's educational ac- frequently brought her army waters, particularly to the newly created sity of the Punjab, a per- of the then Lieutenan- or, determination to expose corrupt practices which iving the new University name did not endear her authorities. Officials of te personal integrity eluctant to believe that ic qualifications were be- ic and sold. The Secre- Government, son-in-law e Lieutenant-Governor, ed to Henry Steel to keep e in order. "Take her for nth and try," replied husband with the voice eience.

the scandal was un- d and Mrs Steel's insis- tions were proved to be e. As a recompense to ruggle she was sent to ugle to stay with Lord Duf- the Viceroy. A great- on of Sheridan, the Vice- ricularly appreciated his theatrical gifts. curls her star turn as the e. Terrible, which convul- d Dufferin so that he fell from his chair. Steel herself considered te had exercised restraint spect of her husband's during her 20 years in but when she settled to write novels such in- was evaporated. She des- her heroes, such as John ison, with enthusiasm, but

she laid about her with equal vigour when she wished to castigate what she saw as the stupidities of the Raj. Not un- naturally her writing was com- pared with that of Rudyard Kip- ling, her junior, but writing contemporaneously, with whose artist father she had collabora- ted in the production of Indian primers.

It was not a comparison that Mrs Steel seems to have relish- ed. She was prepared to ack- nowledge Kipling's genius, but she was conscious that, as a woman, she had penetrated the life of "those behind the cur- tains" in the zenanas, an area barred to a European man. She shared Kipling's disapproval of the unimaginative treatment of sexual problems among British soldiers in India, but on at least one occasion she wrote sardonically of a young clerk who had enlisted for service overseas after reading *The Arabian Nights and Soldiers Three*.

On the *Face of the Waters*, Flora Annie Steel's novel of the Mutiny, was written after a period of research into archives at Delhi which had been sealed for 30 years. Its historical accuracy has never been dis- puted, but, in addition, the drama in which she wrapped the skeleton of history gripped the public imagination. Turned down by Macmillan, publisher of her earlier books, it was brought out by the young Wil- liam Heinemann, who was re- warding by seeing the novel rock- ing into the best seller class on both sides of the Atlantic. She did not limit herself to stock characters, soldiers, Indian civilians or native princes. The adulterous love- affair, which is the hinge of the plot, concerns the seamy lives of shady contractors and crooked race riders. If later books never had the same daz- zling success, Mrs Steel re- mained an admired author for the rest of her life of over eighty years.

Women's Suffrage was a cause which brought out all the virtues of Mrs Steel's temper- ment. She even debated the question in public with the for- midable anti-Suffragist Mrs Humphry Ward, believing that reason and ridicule were more potent weapons than thrown bricks or name tags to railings. Her one sally into action over the Suffrage was carefully planned to prove her point. Arguing that if she was judged to be liable to pay rates she was surely capable of putting in on a voting paper, Mrs Steel re- fused to pay the rates demanded for her Welsh holiday cottage. She was faced by an auction of her goods by the sheriff's officer, the first bit being the opening pages of *On the Face of the Waters* which she was supporting. Supporting his best seller, William Heinemann secured it for more than the sum required in distraint. *The Times* printed a rather guarded version of the incident, but laughter rocked the apprecia- tive Welsh bystanders.

Even in later life Mrs Steel's gift for ridiculing her opponents remained unimpaired. An ill- advised attempt to detain her on Ellis Island when she landed briefly at New York, brought a storm on to the head of the immigration officer concerned. This protest and its repercus- sions would, she hoped, improve the future lot of solitary female travellers in their late sixties. The First World War found Mrs Steel eager for work, or perhaps more correctly eager to organize the work of others. She was hampered but far from extinguished by suggestions that she should confine her- self to the knitting of socks, and until her death in 1929 she continued to speak on any sub- ject about which she felt strongly. Her interest in philo- sophy and religion was un- abated, though at times she showed some confusion of mind as to whether the women for whose cause she fought were victims or predators. Her unfinished auto- biography she was able to boast that *On the Face of the Waters* had never gone out of print. Many recent popular success- es, books, films, radio and televi- sion programmes which deal with the "sunburnt little lady in a wide pith hat," as she once described herself. Flora Annie Steel never lost the avidity for new experience and the wish to help the unfortu- nate which had made her name which had made when she was the young wife of a Deputy

Commissioner in the Punjab. If Flora Annie Steel's right to an entry in the *Dictionary of National Biography* rests chiefly on the success of her novel of the Mutiny, it was her activities in the field of Indian education that first gave her the insight shown so remarkably in *On the Face of the Waters*. Henry Steel's duties at Kasur included the inspection of schools, in which the low standard of the English lessons shocked his wife who accompanied him on these tours. To improve the standard she instituted reading classes in the garden of the domed court- house, which was how she learnt the sad story, already men- tioned, of the thirteen-year-old father.

After class the boys were brought into the house itself, where Flora sang them the sentimental ballads of the period. Although the tunes were totally different in tone and structure from the patterns of Indian music, her pupils found them delightful. They were even moved to tears by such special favourites as "Home they brought her war- rior dead". Curiously enough, the drawing-room ballad sing- ing in India long after the end of the Raj. Only a few years ago a translation of Tennyson's *Maud* could be heard as back- ground music at a party in the state capital of Hyderabad. Flora would hardly have approved of this performance as she had expressed herself so strongly on the absurdity of translating Tennyson's *Lotus Eaters* into garbled Urdu. Impressed by the success and popularity of Flora's teaching methods, the Chief Native Administrator suggested that a girls school might be started. Female education was a deli-

cate matter in India, as it led inevitably, to questions of eman- cipation, not always relished by those who might be supposed to benefit from a freer life. As the suggestion came from an official who was also President of the Municipal Committee, it was supported locally. Had the scheme originated with Flora, suspicions ranging from reli- gious subversion to the kidnab- ping of daughters might have easily sabotaged the project. Although there were few Hindus in Kasur, the benevo- lent assistance kept by the Sirkar in educational matters required that, in any officially recog- nized school, both Hindu and Muslim teachers should, for a stiff wage, propound their sepa- rate creeds. This being arranged, a first class of alpha- betic scholars was recruited from among the children of the bazaar. A top class was formed by a few girls from richer homes who were able to recite parts of the Koran by heart.

These prodigies had also learnt by heart what Flora called the dubious tales of the first Persian primer, creating a false impression of reading aloud. The tale Flora quoted as an example of dubiousness concerned a man brought before a judge on the charge of stealing his neighbour's male donkey. The accused countered by showing that the only donkey he owned was indisputably female. The neighbour then remarked that the stolen don- key had not after all, been "a false male one". Although Flora found it necessary to accept that sexuality supplied the only incident and excitement in the lives of many, if not most, Indian women, she objected to a reading primer that concen- trated on the sexual attributes of donkeys, even if the lessons

were learnt by ear rather than by eye. Flora's influence with the schools was, of course, backed by the strength of her husband's position as Administrator and ex-officio President of the Municipal Council of Kasur. Every Sunday the Council was invited to a social meeting in the court-house garden, a crea- tion of the hands of the President. On these occasions it was Flora's responsibility to see that the refreshments pro- vided did not outrage any of the dietary principles of religion. Melons were abundant at Kasur, so that the ice delivered daily to the ice- house from Lahore caused ice melon, a cooling and religiously un- objectionable offering, to be readily available.

At Christmas, more ambi- tiously, the Municipal Council were entertained to a Christmas dinner. Flora was careful that the menu rather than beef, should be served, the pudding itself being innocent of suet and brandy. Such was the success of the pudding that in future Flora served it cold at her Sunday re- ceptions, to follow the iced water melon. An outbreak of cholera made a precautionary change to a blander menu seem advisable, but the substitution of jelly and sponge cake was a failure.

As it was necessary to keep a balance in the community, at Kasur there were two female schools of each religious per- suasion. To these schools was given an order for a bed cover to be embroidered, a counter- pane to be presented to the Prince of Wales. The eldest son of the Great Mother across the sea, who was soon to be pro- claimed Empress, had come on a cold weather visit to India,

and his camp was to be set up near Lahore.

No-one will be surprised to learn that Flora squashed attempts to pass off the work of dextrous Delhi embroiderers as coming from the schools of Kasur. She had not yet de- veloped her interest in tradi- tional native handicrafts, a subject in which she became expert. With increased know- ledge grew disgust, both at the failure of her compatriots to appreciate the special beauty of the diaper embroidery known as *phulkari* work, and at the native exploitation of shoddy imita- tions. At the time of the Prince's visit she still leaned towards Western techniques, but her design, based on the Prince of Wales' feathers, was effective when worked onto Persian satin, the main problem being to keep the white satin clean from the effluvia, which seemed to Flora to breathe discoloration.

To accommodate the Royal Visit, a camp was pitched by what Flora invariably referred to as "Government" without a definite article. This may have been the practice of her hus- band and his colleagues in the ICS, but Flora often used it to give vent to her personal feel- ings. To her the power that ruled her husband's climb up the ladder of promotion fre- quently showed itself to be a boneheaded bureaucracy, at its best laboriously well-meaning, at its worst malevolent. Throughout her husband's ser- vice in India, Government also remained, in her eyes a por- sionously wicked fairy, fre- quently blind to the rudimen- tary interests of the Service. Flora considered that official displays of niggardiness did more than anything else to lower the prestige of British rule in India.

The great camps in the days of the Mughals often covered miles of countryside, but always in the centre hung a lantern, proclaiming that here was the Lamp of Justice. Flora thought this to have been symbolism of a higher order than the British flag flown from the middle of such a lesser camp as was set up for the visit of the Prince. On the other hand, in her opinion, the principle of the orderly pitching of this tem- porary city still owed much in its precision to the pattern laid down by the Mughals.

Vegetation to soften the aspect of the sandy plain was supplied by quick-growing bar- ley and cut sprays of chrys- anthemum already in bud. This assistance of nature, slightly reminiscent of the Potemkin villages that attended the pro- gresses of Catherine the Great of Russia, nevertheless pro- vided a pretty background for a grand ball. Here the Prince picked out Mrs Henry Steel, not for her bright cheeks and yellow hair, but because he saw her to be the only woman pre- sent who knew how a Scottish reel should really be danced. Queen Victoria had been an enthusiastic promoter of reels, so her son could speak with knowledge gained by footing it at the Balmoral Gallies Ball.

Flora accepted the compli- ment as partly due to an hereditary talent. At seventy- five her father could go through the intricacies of an eightsome with a light foot that would not have caused a jelly to wobble. His daughter thought of him as the Dancing Faun. Her husband seems to have been more mis- anthropic, for his dislike of continual human contacts led him to pitch their tents away from the general lay-out of the camp. Government, unimpressed by this spirit of independence, still sent in a bill of ten rupees a day for lighting and sanitation, neither of which was available to the Steels, who immediately counter-attacked.

In fact the Steels were in a strong position. Flora's cher- ished piano having been lent to the camp and installed in the Prince's drawing-room. It was not entirely loyalty that had pro- moted the loan. Necessity had not yet driven Flora to learn how to tune the instrument her- self, but she knew that the art was possessed by a bandmaster at neighbouring Mian Mir and that he would certainly be sum- moned to restore the piano's notes to a pitch fit for a prince's ears. The financial scuffle that ensued was finally resolved when Henry Steel sent in a bill for sixteen rupees a day, the going rate for piano hire. Flora's private war with authority had not yet reached its full potential, but she was beginning to flex her muscles. Her character was also to be strengthened by a variety of crises. An unexpected call from a local rajah had precipitated one of the most testing of these. The caller had delayed the Steels from setting out in their dog-cart, the mare in the shafts becoming restive with standing. She slipped her headstall and bolted, with Henry Steel tugging at the useless reins. There was an almighty crash, and he was thrown out into a bed of chrysanthemums, which had just been planted. They broke the keen gardener's fall and appropriately saved his life. Meanwhile he was insensible. Flora had the body carried indoors, to a background of panic cries from the entire household that their master was certainly dead.

She was not yet 25 but she acted with more sense than the lady in the ballad whose war- rior was borne home dead and who "nor breathed, nor uttered sigh". There was no European help nearer than Lahore, 25 miles away, so she had no option but to rely on her own diagnosis. She settled for con- cussion, but no broken bones, which turned out to be correct. When her husband's climb up the ladder of promotion fre- quently showed itself to be a boneheaded bureaucracy, at its best laboriously well-meaning, at its worst malevolent. Throughout her husband's ser- vice in India, Government also remained, in her eyes a por- sionously wicked fairy, fre- quently blind to the rudimen- tary interests of the Service. Flora considered that official displays of niggardiness did more than anything else to lower the prestige of British rule in India.

Looking back on the con- tinual necessity for relying on her own judgment, Flora thought that she might have become too autocratic in the isolation of Kasur. She specu- lated that, had she lived on stations with a large European personnel, she might have fol- lowed the usual habits of her compatriots, women, benevolent in supporting good causes, but

initiating little of her own account. Both from her own self-portrait and from what is known of her character there is little to support this view. Wherever she happened to find herself Flora's activities were never circumscribed by conven- tion, though it was only at Kasur that her scope came to include municipal architecture.

Perhaps inflated by a diet of melon and Christmas pudding, the self-importance of Kasur's Municipal Council had led it to the conclusion, endemic in pub- lic bodies, that offices worthy of its deliberations should be built. Mrs Steel was consulted, the Council rightly trusting that she would take the subtlety of rank and caste into considera- tion. Flora drew up a scheme which included a large hall for state occasions, carefully cal- culated to seat the various of- ficials in correct order. Addition- ally, she designed a verandah where visitors could squat with due regard to the gradations of caste. The design was ac- claimed, an arched apse in the hall being particularly appreciated.

Government, in the shape of the Department of Public Works took a different view. Striking out the apse and the verandah, it offered instead a singularly inappropriate design in the form of a Swiss chalet. Flora's friends on the Council stood firm, arguing that her plan would cost far less than the one which the DPW wished to impose. Flora herself made some attempt to stop the scheme, as the arch of the apse would have a sixteen foot span and she had never before drawn such plans. She was over-ruled, but consoled herself that the Taj Mahal at Agra, and the Red Fort at Delhi, must have been built by ancestors of the old architect at Kasur who was to supervise that carrying out of her design.

Almost immediately after its completion Flora's apse, and the building of which it was the pride, were tested by the full force of a natural calamity which both triumphantly with- stood. A Kasur storm, the rain- fall was meagre. An average of thirteen inches a year made life precarious should even such a small gift from heaven be withheld. For nine months no rain at all had fallen, both the monsoon and the winter rains having failed. At last, in despair, the Municipal Council came to Flora's Sunday recep- tion with the announcement that prayers to heaven were the only hope of a harvest on earth. It was requested that permission might be granted for twelve Hindu yogis and twelve Mahomedan fakirs to be set naked in the sun, without food or water, for twenty-four hours. Such an appeal to heaven, made from strictly equal sects, was known to be inalienable.

When faced with a custom that she thought to be unrea- sonably superstitious, Flora usually did her best to deflate the idea by gently joking. On this occasion she suggested that, as the recipe was certain to succeed, it might be well to qualify the request by spec- ifying the amount of rain re- quired. After discussion, this idea was vetoed as a blasphemous attempt to limit God's wisdom. In which case, Flora asked, would it not be better to let God decide whether or not rain should fall?

The Municipal Council went home unconvinced. Throughout the hours of a particularly stew- ing Monday, Flora thought with compassion of the twenty-four holy men, inescapably at prayer under the pitiless sun. Early on Tuesday she was awakened by a drop of water on her nose. It was raining as it might have rained on Noah. Even the stone dome of the courthouse was dripping, while the sun-baked brick of the living quarters ran with water. The bearer pro- claimed that the ducks were drowning, while horses had to be rescued and furniture covered with carpets. At six o'clock a messenger from the city of Kasur arrived, half swimming and carrying in a tin box in his turban a message from the highest native official. It ex- pressed succinctly the general feeling, "Farewell, this is not rain. This is the Flood of God".

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Adapted from Flora Annie Steel by Violet Powell to be published on Monday by Heinemann at £8.50.

Chess

Elo again

Having received the new rating list from the World Chess Federation, I had grimly set myself to the task of underlining the British names when the *News Flash* arrived from Norway containing an article by the Icelandic General Secretary of the ECF, Paul Buswell, in which he had done all the work for me.

Perhaps a few words of explanation are necessary at this point for those unfamiliar with the processes of rating. Some years ago, almost before it was invented, the American professor, Arpad Elo, devised a system for rating players that gave them a certain number of points for their achievements in tournament play. Depending upon their success players attained the title of international master or even more grandiose, of international grandmaster. An international master was a player with a rating of 2,400 and a grandmaster had 2,500.

The Elo rating list used to appear once a year, theoretically at any rate on January 1. The fact that it came out later was due to the cut-off date for considering a player's achievement came as early as October the previous year. It meant that the ratings were often a good year behind the actual performance of the players. Now, however, it has been decided to publish an Elo rating list twice a year, once in January and once in July, and as a result the information about the status of the masters has become really up to date.

In the *News Flash*, an interesting and most informative monthly production of the British Chess Federation, Paul Buswell gives the names of the British players in the Elo rating list and shows to what extent they have improved or deteriorated during the year.

He has also picked out the leading 14 grandmasters under the somewhat revolting heading of "The 2,500-Super Grandmasters." Perhaps I am a little too finicky in this but my mind goes back to a time many years ago when I was playing in an international tournament in Glasgow. There existed there a player who was playing half rejoicing in the nefarious title of "Super Max."

Leading in the list of super grandmasters is, appropriately enough, the present world champion, Anatoly Karpov, with 2,630 points. He has gone down 40 points since the 1st list. His great rival, Viktor Korchnoi, once also of the USSR, but now Swiss, is in second place with 2,650, having one down even more, by 45 points, whereas the Hungarian grandmaster, Lajos Portisch, has gone down a mere five points to finish equal with Korchnoi in the list.

Next come Hubner (West Germany) and Spassky (USSR) both with 2,635, two more Soviet players, Belavsky and Geller, and the highly talented young Dutch player, imman, all with 2,620 points, last year's Soviet champion,eller, has 2,615 and so too is the former Brazilian grandmaster, Henrique Meck.

Then come two Scandinavian grandmasters, Ulf Andersson of Sweden and Bent Larsen of Norway, both with 2,610, the brilliant young Yugoslav, Ljubojovic, 2,605. Finally, it is the Soviet grandmaster, Iashov, with 2,600.

It is a distinguished list, but seems a pity we have not got a British player in it. The best is Tony Miles with 2,575 and John Nunn with 2,575. Jonathan Speelman with 2,535.

All three made notable advances in 1980. Miles increased his total by 45, Nunn by 60, and Speelman by 45. One player who made a marked jump is the boy prodigy, 900 points to 2,440. Thinking of boy prodigies makes me wonder where the wonderful Garry Kasparov figured in the list and on looking him up I discovered that he was wrongly omitted by Paul Buswell since he has 2,625 points. Well, if it is any consolation to Paul for the oversight, I must add that on checking through the list I found that Kasparov was the only over-18 player.

The wonderful energy with which Kasparov plays is well shown in the following game from last year's Olympiad at Malta.

White: G. Kasparov, Black: G. Listerink. Q.P. Queen's Indian Defence.

1. P-Q4 N-B3 2. P-KN3 P-QN3 3. P-QN3 P-KN3 4. P-KN3 P-QN3 5. Q-N2 B-N5 6. Q-N3 N-B3 7. P-Q5 P-Q5 8. P-Q5 P-Q5 9. P-Q5 P-Q5 10. P-Q5 P-Q5 11. P-Q5 P-Q5 12. P-Q5 P-Q5 13. P-Q5 P-Q5 14. P-Q5 P-Q5 15. P-Q5 P-Q5 16. P-Q5 P-Q5 17. P-Q5 P-Q5 18. P-Q5 P-Q5 19. P-Q5 P-Q5 20. P-Q5 P-Q5 21. P-Q5 P-Q5 22. P-Q5 P-Q5 23. P-Q5 P-Q5 24. P-Q5 P-Q5 25. P-Q5 P-Q5 26. P-Q5 P-Q5 27. P-Q5 P-Q5 28. P-Q5 P-Q5 29. P-Q5 P-Q5 30. P-Q5 P-Q5 31. P-Q5 P-Q5 32. P-Q5 P-Q5 33. P-Q5 P-Q5 34. P-Q5 P-Q5 35. P-Q5 P-Q5 36. P-Q5 P-Q5 37. P-Q5 P-Q5 38. P-Q5 P-Q5 39. P-Q5 P-Q5 40. P-Q5 P-Q5 41. P-Q5 P-Q5 42. P-Q5 P-Q5 43. P-Q5 P-Q5 44. P-Q5 P-Q5 45. P-Q5 P-Q5 46. P-Q5 P-Q5 47. P-Q5 P-Q5 48. P-Q5 P-Q5 49. P-Q5 P-Q5 50. P-Q5 P-Q5 51. P-Q5 P-Q5 52. P-Q5 P-Q5 53. P-Q5 P-Q5 54. P-Q5 P-Q5 55. P-Q5 P-Q5 56. P-Q5 P-Q5 57. P-Q5 P-Q5 58. P-Q5 P-Q5 59. P-Q5 P-Q5 60. P-Q5 P-Q5 61. P-Q5 P-Q5 62. P-Q5 P-Q5 63. P-Q5 P-Q5 64. P-Q5 P-Q5 65. P-Q5 P-Q5 66. P-Q5 P-Q5 67. P-Q5 P-Q5 68. P-Q5 P-Q5 69. P-Q5 P-Q5 70. P-Q5 P-Q5 71. P-Q5 P-Q5 72. 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Fred Emery

The Thatcher style of wise retreat

We knew Mrs Thatcher had guts in battle. Now we have proof that she has the wisdom not to charge straight at the enemy's cannons. In politics, as in war, retreat is one of the most difficult movements, while being often the most sensible. Retreat too easily turns into rout and it requires guts, finesse and good order to fall back and regroup.

With the operation only just begun, there is some small cheer. Although the Labour jeers and Tory smears might lead one to suppose otherwise, there was a worse political fate than giving way to the miners. It was taking them on, and needlessly risking a national industrial shutdown at the depths of this terrible recession.

It might be that giving more money to coal investment will compromise the Government's strategy; it might be that ceding a psychological pass to trade union leaders will have irreparable consequences for the Government's financial discipline. But that is all still to be fought another day, and thus hypothetical. What must have been certain is that a full-blown coal strike and a developing political confrontation would have wrecked the Government's economic policy and perhaps the Government itself.

If my understanding is correct, the Prime Minister was in no way forced into the final decision. There may have been belated recognition of what was going on—and that is difficult to explain, as we shall see—but by Wednesday she was very firm that there must be no strike. She had an absolute understanding of what was at stake. She had a clear understanding of the abuse she would face, not least from those she had led to believe she was leading to glorious deeds.

Also, if my information is correct, Sir Derek Ezra, the National Coal Board chairman, had to be pushed very hard by Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State for Energy, to suspend his pit closure plan in that final meeting. The miners apparently were close to walking out. So one allegation, that it was all got up by the NCB, seems unlikely.

In fact this is too serious for any more jeers about the lady's not for turning and so on. From one who has sought to probe the contradiction between the Thatcher rhetoric and the Government's shifts of course to meet the storm, call them adjustments if you will, a salute to commonsense.

Lord Thorneycroft, the Tory chairman, upon whom Mrs Thatcher relies for advice and support, was all for "give

on the miners' front, while they were about it: cash limits, import counter measures and social help. While conceding a propaganda setback, Lord Thorneycroft counts it a gain if Mrs Thatcher could now be seen more clearly as the sensible woman he was convinced she was.

Other senior Tories, including Cabinet ministers, counted other gains. The National Union of Mineworkers militants had been "cheated" of their great setpiece replay of the battle with Mr Heath. The NUM moderates had been greatly helped.

That is perhaps wishful thinking, and not to be determined anyway until the enemy comes on again. It could more plausibly be argued that the union militants will be firing up their own troops with the message that marauding pays: it was only the plunge into unofficial strikes that produced results.

However, even assuming that there was a slight gain, the damage done to the Government is of course considerable. Not least, it must be worrying to No 10 that the energy and employment ministers managed not to be aware of how rapidly the crisis was upon them. Senior Cabinet ministers now admit to lack of advance intelligence.

But it is not as if it all happened by stealth. Much blame has been put by Mrs Thatcher and Mr Howell on what they call rumour and distortion about the number of pits and men at risk in the closure plan. But this will not do.

Any casual newspaper reader could hardly fail to have been expertly informed of what was afoot and when. The miners' leaders did not keep their threats secret. The NCB even confirmed the union-supplied figures, according to *The Financial Times*. Recently *The Daily Telegraph* had a front page headline "50 pits and 30,000 jobs threatened". The same day a feature in *The Financial Times* reviewed all the implications with uncanny prescience. Paul Routledge, our Labour Editor, reported in detail the political intentions among the militants. And so it went on, daily.

Not until the weekend was there clarification of so-called rumours. And even then it was clear that the figure of 23 pit closures applied to one year only. Where on earth were the Cabinet? They still believed a strike to be unlikely. We know that Mrs Thatcher reads only *The Sun* and the *Daily Mail* while listening to the *Today* programme but the issue can hardly have been avoided.

Apparently it was only after last weekend that things began

to move. But even then the action was not very rapid. Mr Howell's action on Tuesday in bringing forward by five days his supposed "listening talk" was the only sign that the red alert button had at last been pressed.

"First get the facts", is Mrs Thatcher's axiom. But no one in Government has yet offered a satisfactory explanation of why the National Coal Board did not puncture rumour and come straight out with the true figures—not that the result would have been any different.

Mr John Moore, Under-Secretary of State for Energy in charge of coal, has repeatedly held more consultations within the industry than any of his predecessors, so he must have been aware of what was up. Mr Howell, although an ardent supporter of Mrs Thatcher's new line, as he was of the old, is also not the sort of Minister to go uninforming. His permanent secretary at Energy, Sir Donald Maitland, the man who served as Mr Heath's press secretary during the first miners' strike (the one he gave way to). All these men have something to answer for.

Yet right to the end, as foreign correspondents at Downing Street last Wednesday evening will testify, nobody told the Prime Minister's press secretary what was coming until it bit him. The presentational problem, as they like to call it, was enormous.

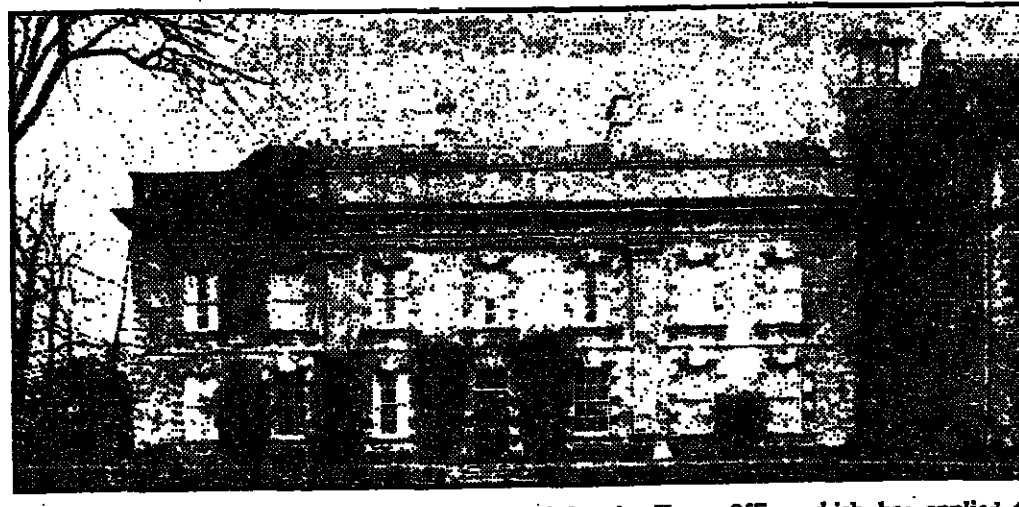
What distinguishes this retreat and makes it the most difficult the Government has yet had to execute is that it is the first one performed as a result of union militancy. British Steel, B.L. were economic realities that had to be faced, even though Sir Keith Joseph began balking at the latter. British Airways and Shipbuilders both broke their cash limits, but in all these adjustments nobody made the Government back down.

This time, once they have got over their surprise, there will be a pursuing enemy. The unions in other key public services would hardly be human if they did not at least try keeping the Government on the run.

This would be a test not so much of guts but of organizing and stiffening resistance. The word is that the leading "wets" in the Cabinet are in fact now getting on better with Mrs Thatcher and the rest of her economic ministers than appearances might suggest. But if the latest "get Prior" attempt in the *Daily Express* turns out to be Cabinet-inspired rather than a party attack, then the retreat could turn ragged.



Cullen House, Banffshire, has stood empty since the sale of its contents several years ago, but its owner, Lord Seafield, has declined to offer it for sale or lease.



Stocken Hall, near Oakham, Leicestershire, owned by the Home Office which has applied to demolish it.

Places in peril

The news that the enchanting Tudor manor, Canon Ashby, has been saved for the nation provides only a small ray of light in the general gloom that surrounds the future of Britain's huge and diverse architectural heritage. Although in Mr Michael Heseltine, we have a Secretary of State for the Environment who appears to have a genuine care for conservation, the inability or unwillingness of the Government either to increase grants or to consider selective tax relief makes it all but inevitable that more and more buildings will fall empty and decay.

Broadly, there could be said to be five main categories of historic building. There are the ancient monuments, ruins of medieval castles and abbeys, many of which are the direct responsibility of the Department of the Environment. Then there are cathedrals and churches; country houses; industrial buildings, including railway stations, mills and factories; and finally a broad collection of mainly urban buildings, often embracing complete streets, squares and terraces.

Each category is the subject of concern; recent letters to *The Times* have alleged that the Government itself is shirking its responsibility as custodian of some of our greatest national monuments. But those which probably worry conservationists most are ecclesiastical buildings and country houses, because they are both the most costly to maintain and the most difficult for which to find new uses.

It must, indeed, it can only be taken for granted that the great cathedrals will continue to be maintained by appeal funds or by charging for admission. But the same emphatically does not hold good for hundreds of lesser known, but often architecturally superb, churches and chapels which have lost their congregations, because of either a decline in religious activity or changing patterns of urban population. Groups such as the Friends of Friendless Churches are doing their best, but there are deeply felt and contradictory opinions about the secular uses to which religious buildings can or should be put.

So far as country houses are concerned, the Historic Houses Association has consistently campaigned for an extension of tax relief on repairs and maintenance, which at present benefits only owners of houses which attract large numbers of paying visitors and are effectively run as businesses. It is also said that the imposition of VAT on repairs is short-sighted and destructive, which applies equally, if not more, to churches.

But there are those such as Save Britain's Heritage, an articulate conservation group with a flair for publicity which is often lacking in the longer established societies, who argue that the greatest difficulties are presented by those properties whose owners have abandoned them but refuse to put them on the market. Their claim that the best way to preserve old buildings is to find new uses for them is echoed in a slightly different context by Mr Heseltine, who affirms that it is not the Government's business to subsidize owners to live in surroundings which they can no longer afford to maintain themselves.

John Young
Planning reporter

Brain death: the fears remain

Those viewers with the patience and determination to watch until its end the BBC TV debate on brain death on Thursday were left with the experts disagreeing. Four British specialists were confident of the reliability of the diagnostic code in current use as agreed by the Royal Colleges; four critics (two British, one American, one Norwegian) argued that additional safeguards were needed. In particular they wanted to add to the series of tests an electroencephalographic recording (EEG) of the electrical activity within the brain.

This disagreement is not simply a matter of academic debate: any uncertainties need to be eliminated for two reasons. First, to restore public confidence in the use of the code to reassure the relatives of the thousands of patients who have been certified as dead in the past using the British code.

Many viewers must have echoed the central question posed by Mr Ludovic Kennedy: why do the British experts not agree to add the EEG to their code as an additional, reassuring test?

Patients with brain damage (or some other medical condition) severe enough to stop their brains needing mechanical ventilation if they are to be kept alive. If the brain does not recover, the patient's heart and lungs can be kept going for some days, but eventually the heart will stop. However, continuing the ventilation of what is, in effect, a corpse for several days distresses relatives and nursing staff and denies life-saving facilities to other dangerously ill patients. In such cases the brain-death procedure has been designed to answer the single, simple question: "Is there any possibility that this patient will ever become conscious or resume normal breathing without the use of the machine?"

The Royal Colleges claim that their code gives a totally reliable answer to that question by testing (in patients known to have structural brain damage) the vital segment of the brain—the brain stem—that controls consciousness, breathing, blood pressure, and other vital functions. The critics want to add the EEG to test the function of other parts of the brain—those concerned with thought, speech, and voluntary movements.

The objection to the addition of the EEG is that the test does not help and may confuse. The EEG may show no function in the brain in patients with irreversible brain disorders—in particular, overdosage of drugs; and it may show continuing electrical activity in some patients with irreversible damage to the brain whose hearts stop shortly afterwards. Testing the function of the whole brain, say the Royal Colleges, is irrelevant as testing the function of the liver: the crucial question is

whether the patient has any chance of recovery.

Why, then, do some doctors persist in arguing that the EEG would help? The arguments are essentially philosophical and instinctive. One of the most pervasive human fears is of being buried alive. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, elaborate precautions were devised to prevent the horrors imagined by writers such as Edgar Allan Poe: coffins were constructed with a bell-ringing mechanism to allow continuous surveillance of bodies for two or three days before burial. Fear of premature burial largely disappeared in the early twentieth century with the widespread standards of the use of an above-ground coffin. The fears returned as intensive care units became capable of maintaining deeply unconscious patients alive for days and sometimes weeks. In such cases, natural, instinctive questions to wonder whether inside a unconscious patient's brain might not remain some flick of awareness.

Professor John Hughes, Chicago, one of the critics of the British code, told viewers of his deep personal concern that there could be a false sense of security in the proof of survival of the patient after death but he argued that the evidence was against it.

Nevertheless, when the experts disagree, the public may ask how can they decide who is right? In the main, the debate the balance of probabilities is tilting in one direction. The controversy was opened in October 13 which showed for American patients, mistakes declared dead. No one can have been declared dead in Britain (or even serious cases considered as possibly brain dead). The critics of the British code are shifting their ground to the argument that the procedures could be tightened up (by insisting, for example, on a 24-hour delay before the EEG is certified) and the EEG would add certainty and reassure the public.

On virtually every medical issue there are dissenting opinions: on the diagnosis of brain death those dissenting voices can now be seen to be a very small minority.

Dr Tony Smith
Medical Correspondent



Part of the Hesford family team: Ian, Bob senior and Steve.

To stand surrounded by the male members of the Hesford family is to feel like Al Capone when the FBI came to take him away. The father, Bob Hesford, and his three sons Bob, Steve and Ian are all well over six feet tall, and though they are a cheerful and genial bunch it is a fair bet that no one kicks sand in their faces on the Blackpool beach. Collectively, the Hesford family, of Cleveleys on the Lancashire coast, represent football, Rugby Union and Rugby League. A combination of sporting fanaticism and African sunshine in early childhood has made them all agile and credible bulks.

Bob junior plays number eight for Bristol Rugby Union club and is on the fringes of an England cap: he is on the replacements bench for the Calcutta Cup at Twickenham today. Steve is all set to break goal-kicking records with Warrington, in the Rugby League, and Ian, the baby at 20, is goalkeeper with Blackpool FC.

Bob is the tallest and, at 28, he is the eldest. However, even he bows to the benign, affectionate but firm rulings of his father, who has won undying fame through faded newspapers. These have shown how George Mutch, the Preston North End inside forward, took a penalty kick in the last minute of extra time in the 1938 FA Cup final at Wembley and beat the Huddersfield Town goalkeeper, Bob Hesford.

The lads grin and give mean-

A family for all seasons

Sportsview

ingful sidelong glances at each other as their father unfolds the tale yet again. Every time I see it I feel sure I'm going to get to it this time," Bob senior says. "I made up my mind to dive to the right to allow for a right-footer's pull. Mutch hit it straight up into the air and in off the underside of the bar."

Bob Hesford was born in Bolton, went to Blackpool Grammar School and took a degree in classics at Leeds University. When his goalkeeping career was interrupted by the war he enlisted and served with the Buffs in Burma. After the war he played for Huddersfield in 1951; then he and his Scottish wife, Jean, went to Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia, and later to Nyasaland, now Malawi. He taught in several schools and eventually became headmaster of a school which is now part of Malawi University.

All the boys were born and spent their early childhood in the baking sun of Africa. They were taught and encouraged by their father to play games and

sport from the days when they could first walk. They played football, rugby, cricket, tennis and golf, went swimming every day and, as Steve remarked, "we seemed to spend 80 per cent of our lives playing sport."

The family returned to England in 1970 and the boys soon picked up the sporting threads. Bob played for Arnold school, Fleetwood and Durham University, had a spell of teaching in Zambia, returned to England to teach and played first with Walsley, then Bristol.

Steve, a natural all-rounder, played in goal for Fleetwood, went to Australia as a guest player in that emerging semi-professional league and might have played for Australia in the 1974 World Cup had the selectors chosen Australian-born players. He then played Rugby Union for Fleetwood, made his own way to Warrington to ask for trials and is now the most prolific goal-kicking fullback in the League.

Ian, yet another goalkeeper, played for Blackpool schoolboys and was a member of the

Lancashire schools squad. Signed by Blackpool on schoolboy terms at 13, he became a professional in 1976 and played for the first team at 17. When George Wood was transferred to Everton he became regular first-team goalkeeper and, though there have been one or two challenges to his position since, he still holds the position for Blackpool's relegation-threatened side. Last week's defeat was added to the English club's under-21 squad for the match against the Republic of Ireland at Anfield on Wednesday.

While we menfolk were talking, two ladies sat patiently in the background. Jean said that her connection with sport was a lifetime of shouting from the sidelines and watching endgame to defend socks, jerseys and shorts. She is only daughter, Ann, aged 24, who is content, like her mother, to stand in the shadows, although she does not have too high a regard for the game. She is a member of the club and can throw the cricket ball from the other than any of the boys, never, as if when the family lived in Malawi, a paw she was such a good wicket-keeper at 100 yards freestyle as a bowler. She would have represented a procedure had not the team disbanded.

She confided with gleeful abandon that she taught her boys to play football with regular training on Blackpool sands. "I could kick the ball twice as far as my son," she said. "He was in his first year at Malawi University and I was able to take his own goal but for me."

Keith Mack

A hundred years ago tomorrow the rebuilt church in the hill-top village of Haworth in Yorkshire was consecrated. The service that day marked the end of a controversial period in which it was argued on one side that the church was replacing a Brontë shrine and should not be demolished and, on the other, that the church, which was built over graves, was unhealthy.

Even then, 18 years after the last survivor of the famous family, the Rev Patrick Brontë, had died, the windswept village was attracting visitors seeking out the surroundings and moors which had inspired the three novelist daughters of the late vicar.

It was Patrick Brontë's successor, the Rev John Wade, who was responsible for the rebuilding. His plans provoked an indignant response, nationally as well as locally. The whole issue was debated at a meeting in Haworth on May 28, 1879, when promises were made that the Brontë grave would not be disturbed in the demolition and rebuilding.

During the debate, the vicar argued that his duty was to keep a house of God and not a show place for strangers. That is a problem his successors

Haworth: would Charlotte know it?

have come to live with to a much greater extent than Patrick Wade ever had to contend with. The old Brontë home in the adjoining Parsonage is now a museum, administered with care by the Brontë Society. It attracts over 200,000 visitors a year. Tourist officials estimate that more than 700,000 people a year are drawn to Haworth, a large number of whom enter through the narrow doors of the church. What many of them do not realize is that the church they see today is not the one the Brontë family knew. Only the tower of the church in which they worshipped remains, together with the Brontë family grave.

The final service in the Brontë church was on September 14, 1879. Until the

rebuilding was completed services were held in the nearby Sunday School where, years before, Charlotte Brontë had taught.

Although the Haworth living was at that time in the gift of the Vicar of Bradford, the trustees of Haworth church, under a deed dating from the time of Elizabeth I, had the right to refuse his nominee.

With typical Yorkshire forthrightness they exercised their right when it came to Patrick Brontë's appointment—not for personal reasons but to put the Vicar of Bradford firmly in his place for ignoring the ancient right. Brontë withdrew and another appointment was made, but the parishioners drove him out after three appearances. Eventually the Vicar of Bradford relented, a compromise was reached, and the Brontës moved to Haworth.

The centenary of the church will be celebrated at a special service tomorrow and a programme of other events throughout the year has been arranged.

Cyril Bainbridge

(The author's book, *The Brontës and their Country*, is published by Hugh Tempest, Redford, East Bergholt, Colchester.)

China catches the economic chill

Letter from Peking

Surprising? Anti-socialist? Not in the eyes of vice-chairman Deng Xiaoping and his team of economic planners. They are so worried about their deficits that they have been urging the peasants to keep a sharper eye open for gold deposits on their land, and national honours have been bestowed on an 88-year-old woman who bequeathed her gold and jewelry to the state.

Trimming "industrial fat" and administrative expenses if necessary at the cost of high unemployment figures, and ruthlessly stemming the flood of newly printed money, are as much preoccupations of the Chinese Communist Party as of the British Tories.

Measures recently spelled out in Peking include an unprecedented treasury bonds issue worth about \$1,500 million sterling at 4 per cent for 10 years (inadequate to keep up with today's rate of inflation, put at 6 or 7 per cent).

In addition, Chinese organizations holding foreign currency in bank accounts outside China are being told to bring the money home immediately. There is a squeeze on bank credit.

A measure of stability

The crux of the matter is that Mao Tse-tung dictated a very simple economic policy. He banned price rises and free trading in commodities, and his planners dictated how much of everything would be produced, and by whom.

This of course led to tremendous inefficiency, disguised the unemployment problem, and caused widespread falsification of production

figures. But it did bestow a measure of financial stability, to the extent that a major state publishing house brought out a booklet in many languages, entitled *Why China has no inflation*.

Five years later, this boast sounds like a bad joke—even worse than the birth control manual of the same vintage, which said the aim of contraception was to free women to study Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao.

The fact of inflation is now officially admitted in China, and it is clearly one of the leadership's worst headaches. In order to improve efficiency and stimulate production, the past couple of years have been spent introducing long-suppressed freedoms into the nation's economic life.

Hawkers and peddlers were again permitted to ply their trade and it became possible to open a small business. The peasants were able to market their surplus produce freely at their own prices, and indus-

trial concerns could retain some of the currency they earned, to import cars and minibuses and television sets. There was an advertising boom. The emphasis was on decentralization, local and personal initiative, market forces, and the law of supply and demand.

Less food in the shops

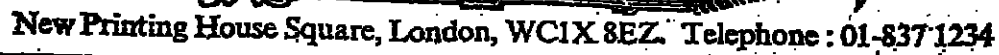
The result was, in some ways, predictable—a whopping adverse balance in foreign trade, and a budgetary deficit which could be only partly explained by the expenses of the 1979 incursion into Vietnam. On top of this, the state undertook to subsidize food supplies for the country's 230 million city dwellers in order to pay a fairer price to the 800 million peasants. To use the favourite phrase of Tory economists, the Chinese were paying themselves more than they

earned. After the first flush of pleasure and the spending spree, people quickly found there was less food in the shops than they needed. Controlled shops because of employment were profitable at the free market. Special certificates, which cannot be like banknotes, were issued to foreigners in exchange for hard currencies, enabling them to purchase scarce or imported goods.

Inevitably a black market grew up and some Chinese began to hold certificates for the day and began buying imported luxuries: items like TV sets and cosmetics.

The present leadership's vision that a better standard of living for all is the priority for the next five years is entirely laudable, but it cannot afford anything like the intensification of the class society socialism of the past century. The present a workable economic policy is still being explored, the stopgap is creating confusion and conflict.

David Bons



from Sir Horace Cutler
 Sir. What can be done with the Post
 office?
 On February 13 I sent St Valentine's
 cards to my three daughters
 at home. All were
 posted before 11 am and all bore
 the special St Valentine's stamp at
 the first-class rate.
 One arrived on the day itself:
 Tuesday the seventeenth;
 and one has not turned up at all
 I write.
 Quite aware from the lack of
 basic efficiency the sale of special
 stamps in these circumstances
 amounts to frauds: if ever there
 was a case for the Trade Descrip-
 tion Act this is surely it.
 Yours faithfully
 HORACE CUTLER.
 The County Hall, SE1.
 February 19.

The object of the exercise succeeded. Evans, the paranoiac whom I was calling him—was eventually rid of and the Labour Party returned to a more moderate position.

My advice to our embryo social democrats is to call themselves the Democratic Labour Party, but first let all get the Government to introduce proportional representation—the only safeguard left against a dictatorship.

Thank you, Sir, your obedient servant
W. H. LUFFORD,
House of Lords.

opposition, was leader of the
 Parliamentary Labour Party.
 In 1976 Mr Callaghan, Mr Jay's
 then-in-law, was elected leader of
 the Parliamentary Labour Party
 immediately before becoming Prime
 Minister.
 By a change of rule at the Labour
 Party conference of October, 1979,
 Callaghan became the first
 leader of the Labour Party, but by
 then he was no longer Prime
 Minister.
 Yours faithfully,
HUMPHRY BERKELEY,
 Editor Pages Yard,
 11, Warwick, W4.

January 28) is making. Experienced defence advocates regularly submit that there is insufficient evidence to send a case for trial. They are often successful, it is gratifying when they are eventually proved to have been correct, but it is at a great cost in unnecessary public expenditure and additional delay, in the Crown Courts. The matter need not await the discussions on the Royal Commission Report. The Divisional Court should now give directions.

Yours faithfully,
T. A. EDWARDS,
9 Mile End Road, E1.

man of the Poetry Society and other
societies can be assured that the
level of commercial sponsorship
raised by the society had no bearing
whatever on the Arts Council's
decision about the level of its own
financial support for the society for
the coming year.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
C. C. PULFORD, Deputy Secretary-
General.

Arts Council of Great Britain,
25 Piccadilly, W1.
February 19.

posed before 11 a.m. and all bore the special St Valentine's stamp at the first-class rate.

One arrived on the day itself: one on Tuesday; the seventeenth: and one has not turned up at all. I write.

Quite apart from the lack of special efficiency the sale of special stamps in these circumstances amounts to frauds: if ever there was a case for the Trade Description Act this is surely it.

Yours faithfully,
DORACE CUTLER.
The County Hall, SE1.
February 19.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Stock markets
FT Ind 488.4 down 5.8
FT Glts 69.17 down 0.24

Sterling
\$2.3100 up 245 pts
Index 102.5 up 0.6

Dollar
Index 98.5 down 1.6
DM2.1050 down 325 pts

Gold
\$507.50 up \$5

Money
3 mth sterling 13-12 1/2
3 mth Euro \$ 16 1/4-16 1/2
6 mth Euro \$ 16 1/4-16 1/2

BA chief ejects EEC urb on advertising

Lord Thomson of Monifieth, former European Commissioner and former chairman of the Advertising Standards Authority, yesterday set the United Kingdom commercial advertising industry firmly against EEC proposals for statutory controls on advertising.

Lord Thomson, now chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, said that the aim of the Commission was to give a European Community a man face, but the main consequence was to give the Community a bad name.

Addressing a television and radio conference in Monte Carlo, he said: "There is a real danger that the draft directive misleading advertising and other similar proposals of the European Commission and the European Parliament in the summer field may slow down or possibly distort the development of consumer protection."

He said the Community ought not to be dissatisfied with its progress in seeking to ensure that advertisements from "England's icy mountains to the golden strand conform to the same framework of control."

The EEC proposals for statutory advertising controls also have been opposed by the British Government.

Reagan choice
President Reagan has chosen Mr. S. R. Shad, 57-year-old chairman of E. F. Hutton, to be chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The decision will be announced in about 10 days.

Enterprise zones
The Government has invited the Bank of Scotland and City of Glasgow to prepare plans for enterprise zones in their districts. Five councils in England and Wales are considering similar invitations, and a further five are expected to be invited.

ecca TV plant sold
Racal Electronics has sold its television factory in Llandudno, Shropshire, to Tung, of Taiwan, for £1.1m. The plant will be run by Tung and Tung will bring in own television models and technology.

elecom standards
The British Standards Institution is preparing new telecommunications standards to assist in the approval of apparatus after the Telecommunications Bill comes into force.

Record German deficit
West Germany posted a \$4.200m (\$665m) trade deficit with the United States in 1980, up from \$3.500m (\$550m) in 1979. West Germany's 1980 current account deficit was a record DM28,100m (\$7,825m).

Wall Street higher
The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 950.0 up 27.31 Wall Street yesterday. The SDR exchange rate was 239.98 while the E-SDR was 536.672.

British Steel and GKN announce first 'Phoenix' joint venture company

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

The formation of the first "Phoenix" joint venture company in the steel industry between the loss-making British Steel Corporation and GKN was announced yesterday.

The new company, embracing the steel billet, bars and wire rod facilities of the two organisations will have a turnover of about £200m and will employ nearly 5,000. Its formation brings to an end nearly two years of often desultory negotiations which have speeded up over the past six months because of the deepening steel industry crisis.

On the same day the new joint venture was formed, the EEC Commission announced it intends to enforce restrictions on state aid to the steel industry. The Commission has been empowered to monitor such subsidies to be sure they are being used to finance plant modernization and not to cover operating losses, and it now intends to tighten the application of Community discipline to which all public aid to steel companies has been submitted for the past year.

The establishment of the new joint venture company fulfils the Government's wish to rationalize areas of overlap between the public and private sectors and sets the pattern for further joint ventures in the steel industry.

The new company, Allied Steel and Wire, will be independent under the Companies Act. Although the Government's aspiration to secure private sector dominance has not been met, since each partner will have a 50 per cent stake, the direction of the company will be steered by Mr Basil Woods of GKN.

Mr Woods will be contributing the bulk of the assets to the new company, including the Tremorfa steel works at Cardiff, its associated bar and section mills and the Castle Mill also at Cardiff. British Steel's number two rod mill at Scunthorpe will also be included, and existing steel reinforcement companies of both organisations will be brought under the new company.

Over the past two years, GKN has triumphed its labour force at Cardiff by about 2,000, and the corporation has announced closures at Scunthorpe with the loss of 2,750 jobs as part of its "survival plan".

The new company will have a total wire rod capacity of about 750,000 tonnes and 350,000 tonnes annual capacity for production of bars and sections.

Yesterday the Department of Trade announced that Mr John Biffen, the Trade Secretary, had approved the deal without the need for a reference to the Monopolies Commission.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Industry Minister, who with Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary has been pressing for the two

organisations to conclude the discussions and who next week will be announcing plans for a reconstruction of British Steel's capital and the injection of further government funds, welcomed the formation of the company yesterday.

Mr Tebbit said the new company, represented an important contribution to the restructuring of the United Kingdom steel industry which was essential if the industry was to compete effectively in world markets. He hoped it would promote discussions for the formation of a similar joint venture company in the engineering sector.

The formation of Allied Steel and Wire and similar joint venture companies, is provided for under the terms of the 1975 Iron and Steel Act. Such companies have additional political attractions since they will have no call on government funds or guarantees and will have to raise finance in the private market.

Net assets to be employed by the new company, including working capital, will be about £130m. In return for assets contributed, each of the partners will receive 50 per cent of the ordinary share capital. Over the first three years, the company's cash requirements are estimated at between £25m and £50m.

The board of the new company will have eight members.

Reagan threat of restrictions on Japanese cars to ease US crisis

From Frank Vogl
US Economics Correspondent
Washington, Feb 20

The Reagan administration is about to place great pressure on the Japanese Government to restrict car exports to the United States. The Japanese may be threatened with tight import quotas unless they move swiftly on their own to limit exports.

Slowing imports is one element in a car industry revitalization programme that has been given top priority in the White House. The degree of crisis in the car industry was highlighted yesterday by Ford Motor Company's announcement of a \$1,540m (£684m) record loss last year.

Mr Drew Lewis, the secretary

of transportation, said today that US car manufacturers may have to cut prices and redirect investment more towards domestic plants and away from overseas factories.

Such decisions by the car makers could well be rewarded by limitations on imports, which Mr Lewis said he would be prepared to recommend.

Mr Lewis said that the United Auto Workers' union would have to make concessions. New wage negotiations are likely in Detroit where the UAW will face intense pressure to accept wage cuts.

The transportation secretary said that the Government would seek to assist the car industry by reviewing the thousands of government regulations which

directly concern car manufacturing. Compliance times for many regulatory orders are likely to be extended.

Mr William Brock, the cabinet secretary in charge of trade, said that actions to strengthen the domestic car industry had to be taken soon. Mounting pressures from Congress made it necessary to act "within weeks, rather than months" on imports.

American Motors yesterday reported record losses for 1980 of \$197.5m (\$85.8m) against a profit of \$70.6m in the previous year.

The group recently sought refuge by joining in a close partnership arrangement with Renault of France.

Debts provision curbs Lloyds profit

By Roman Eisenstein
Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank, the first of the big clearing banks to announce its 1980 figures, yesterday reported that its provision for bad debts on loans made to British customers had risen more than tenfold to £41m in one year. But thanks to the contribution of the international subsidiaries total profits before tax are up by a modest £13.3m to £28.9m.

The dividend for the year has been raised by 20 per cent. Asked whether this would conflict with the 8 1/2 per cent pay rise being offered to staff in the present round of wage negotiations, Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman, implied that the outlook for 1981 was not very bright and that "the dividend looks backwards while pay looks forward." He said that over the last 10 years staff wages had generally "more than kept up with inflation, while dividends, because of past restrictions, have still some catching up to do."

Sir Jeremy said that "sharp increases in costs and in provision for bad and doubtful debts have marked the downturn of the bank profit cycle in Britain."

Profitability had been held up last year because of high interest rates in Britain and good profits overseas from Lloyds Bank International.

For the group as a whole bad debts, including those from overseas, rose sixfold from £11.2m to £67.8m. This shows that bad debts incurred abroad had also been rising fast. For the year they rose from £7.5m to £26.6m. But this also shows some way in explaining the better results overseas.

Lloyds Bank International has, in recent months embarked on a much more aggressive lending policy than in the past. LBI has shifted some of its lending from the top customers such as governments to corporate lending. This explains why its profits for its financial year to the end of September rose from £22.8m in the first half to £42m in the second half.

An important feature of the bad debt provisions on United Kingdom activities is that of the £41.2m total £37.7m has been laid aside as specific provisions for known cases. Only £3.5m is for general provision for unforeseen eventualities.

Profits adjusted for inflation on a current cost accounting basis are slightly down from £169.6m to £164.5m. Sir Jeremy says that profits on a conventional accounting basis have done no more than maintain our capital base in real terms. "Indeed, our current cost profits, which make adjustments for inflation show a small fall for the year."

Sir Jeremy vigorously attacked recent talk of a "windfall profits" tax. "If it was not desirable last year it is not justified now. The arguments which the Chancellor and Mr Nigel Lawson used then against a tax are still valid and nobody has advanced any arguments to justify one." He also attacked talk of a disguised tax through the shift of export credits to the banks' lending books by saying "we are opposed to an overt tax and we are even more opposed to covert tax."

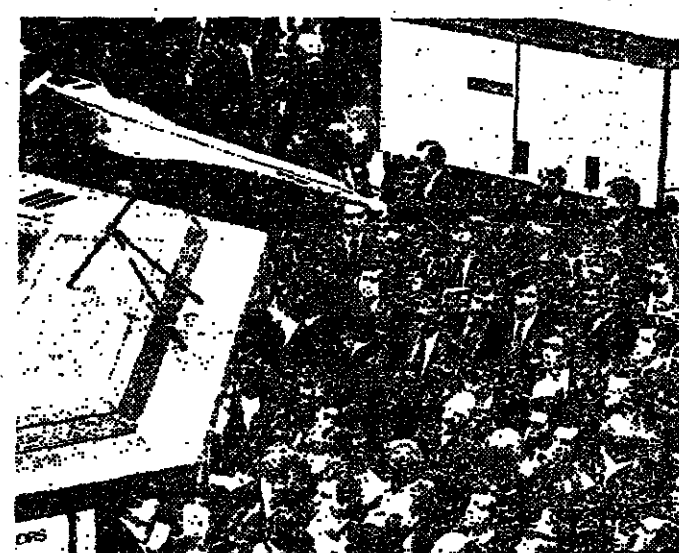
Sir Jeremy confirmed that the banks had given their comments to the Bank of England on proposals for monetary base control. But "it is not for the rabbits to tell the gamekeeper how to run the hunt," he added.

British Aerospace share deals fly fast

By Rosemary Unsworth

First dealings in British Aerospace shares got off to a flying start yesterday.

The Stock Exchange opened 10 minutes early to achieve an orderly market and to prevent traders from being stampeded in the rush, and the price quickly reached 175p, a 25p premium on the offer price which was higher than had been expected.



Queues had formed at the stockjobbers' pitches. Wedd Durlacher, one of the leading market-makers, sported a five-foot model of Concorde, bright yellow wind socks and a flying suit hanging inside its dealing box on the Stock Exchange floor.

By 9.30 am more than 2,000 people were milling on the floor and officials were holding back the lines of stockjobbers, in some places 10 deep, to allow the jobbers to hold on to their books.

The price at first went to 171p, as investors tried to top up their holdings. Another gain put the price at 175p by 9.45 am, but as business in the rest of the market got going, the Aerospace shares came under a little pressure at the end of trading session during which it was estimated that 70 million shares in the company had passed through the market.

The issue was three-and-a-half times over subscribed with 140 million shares being filled in correctly through Lloyds Bank registrar.

small investors the institutions, which have an appetite for high technology stocks, had their allotments scaled down sharply.

There was one small hitch at the start of the dealings as some of the 155,000 allotment letters had gone out to investors without specifying the number of shares they had been allotted.

Stock brokers were advised to check with clients that their forms were filled in correctly through Lloyds Bank registrar.

said that it had only heard of a handful of mistakes. A spokesman said that number of allotments would be corrected and authorized at the main London branch of Lloyds so there was no question of speculators selling shares they had not been allotted.

"It was obviously a spot of human error as the majority of the allocations were filled in by hand to save time last week," a Lloyds spokesman said.

TSB pay offer rejected

By David Felton

Negotiators representing 17,500 clerical staff in the Trustee Savings Banks yesterday rejected an 8 1/2 per cent "offer" after union leaders will now sound out the members' willingness to take industrial action.

The Banking Insurance and Finance Union (BIFU), which represents nearly all staff in the TSBs, has also rejected an 8 1/2 per cent offer from the main clearing banks, last night claimed that there had been collusion between banking employers.

Mr Leif Mills, BIFU general secretary, said: "It is monstrous that an unholy trinity should coordinate their attitude to pay claims in this way."

He suggested that three Scottish banks, which have yet to make an offer to the union, were also being influenced by events in England.

He said that because of the links between the Scottish banks and the English clearers, the union was expecting a similar single figure offer to its 13,500 members in Scotland.

Mr Mills said the basis of the negotiations should be the banks' ability to pay. He said yesterday's announcement by Lloyds of pre-tax profits of £290 million was an example that the employers could go further toward meeting the union's claim for 20 per cent.

The union is refusing to attend further talks with the English clearing banks unless the employers are prepared to improve their offer.

Laporte to cut 500 more jobs

By Our Industrial Staff

Laporte Industries is to cut 500 jobs at its Stallingborough plant on Humberside where 330 redundancies were announced a year ago.

The company blamed the move on falling United Kingdom demand and the much reduced profitability of exports resulting from the strength of sterling. Laporte shares fell 6p to 83p on yesterday's announcement.

Stallingborough employs 1,220 out of Laporte's total workforce throughout the United Kingdom of 4,350. The redundancies are in the high energy consuming sulphate process plant producing titanium dioxide which is used as a filler for paint and paper.

A company spokesman said yesterday that around half of output which was exported had been hit by the value of the pound.

Laporte intends to expand output of titanium dioxide by using the more efficient chloride process at Stallingborough. Special depreciation and redundancy payments caused by the rationalization will cost £10m, including the redundancies announced earlier.

Elsewhere in the textile industry, British Van Heusen, part of the Carrington Viyella group, announced that it is to close its shirt factory at Taunton, with the loss of 190 jobs.

Liquidation move at Norton Warburg

By Philip Robinson

Norton Warburg Group, the investment advisers and financial fund managers, which started eight years ago giving advice to high-earning pop stars and had no more than £16m of funds, is to run the holding company and three of six subsidiaries into voluntary liquidation.

A financial appraisal of the group is being carried out by accountants Cork Gully and Robson Rhodes to be presented to a shareholders' meeting on March 10 at which directors will seek approval to wind up the four companies. A creditors' meeting will follow.

The City of London Fraud Squad confirmed yesterday that it had received a complaint at Wood Street police station from a member of the public which related to Norton Warburg. The Department of Trade said it had been made aware of the company's difficulties.

Mr Andrew Warburg, chairman of NWG, refused to say yesterday what led up to the directors' decision to ask approval for voluntary liquidation.

He said: "That will have to wait the meeting of creditors. Those companies for which we are not seeking liquidation will either be run down, sold or liquidated."

He refused to name creditors of the companies, but it is understood the majority will be the 300 to 400 private individuals who had money under portfolio management with the group.

Those companies seeking liquidation are Norton Warburg Holdings, Norton Warburg Limited and Norton Warburg Investment Management, which was run by Mr Roddy Agg-Manning who was with Antony Gibbs Financial Services from 1972 to 1977 and joined Norton Warburg in 1979.

Until last summer Norton Warburg had two subsidiaries licensed to deal but after a re-organization one changed its name to NW Investment Management and its licence was renewed by the Department of Trade on January 30 this year.

Meanwhile Norton Warburg Investments Ltd an independent and unquoted venture capital company which shares the Cannon Street office of NWG issued a statement making it clear it is no longer connected with the Norton Warburg Group. Until last July it was managed by a company of NWG which retains a 1 per cent shareholding.

The NWG directors of Norton Warburg Investments Ltd resigned last week. The shareholders and creditors meeting of NWG will be held at 186 City Road, London EC1.

There is no connection between NWG and the leading City merchant bank, S. G. Warburg.

Deutsche mark strengthens

By John Whitmore

The Deutsche mark continued to benefit yesterday from the West German Federal Bank's latest series of measures to tighten up banking liquidity.

In European trading the Deutsche mark consolidated on an overnight gain in New York, leaving the dollar 3.25 pence lower in London at DM2.1050.

It also gained ground against sterling which fell from DM4.875 to DM4.8450.

Yesterday's trading was not wholly determined by the Deutsche mark's strength, however. The dollar was generally weaker as the interest rates continued to ease. At one point the Federal Funds rate dropped to 14 1/2 per cent, having traded close to 16 per cent earlier.

The Bank of England dollar index showed a fall of 1.6 to 98.5 and the pound gained 2.45 cents to close at \$2.3100, having been briefly above \$2.33.

In domestic United Kingdom markets, the expectation of an early reduction in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate continued to be reflected in a further drop in Treasury bill rates.

The view is now gaining ground that the next fall in MLR is more likely to be a two point, rather than one point, cut from the present 14 per cent. Three month interbank rate also eased yesterday, into a range of 12 1/2 to 13 per cent.

A GUIDE TO INVESTMENT TRUSTS-6 Taxation - further good news

Taxation is complex and it is not possible to explain every aspect relating to Investment Trusts and their shareholders in only a few paragraphs. If, therefore, you are ever in any doubt you should take professional advice.

However, it is important to have a basic grasp since the Investment Trust sector, following recent legislation, has considerable tax advantages which further enhance its attraction to both individual and institutional shareholders.

For some years the rules for taxing Investment Trusts have recognised that a double layer of capital gains taxation, on company and on shareholder, would be unreasonable, and accordingly special low rates of tax were applied. In practice, however, individuals were not always able to obtain full benefit from the credit that was given against the tax on any gain they made. Also, there was no way in which an exempt shareholder could recover the tax suffered by the Trust.

However, Investment Trusts are now exempt from tax on capital gains so that these constraints have been removed.

The individual shareholder has no liability to Capital Gains Tax until total net realised gains (on all shares in any type of company) reach £3,000 in any tax year. Where total gains exceed £3,000 the excess will be charged at 30 per cent.

Income Tax
Income Tax in the U.K. is a levy on individuals not on companies. Investment Trust shareholders, both Ordinary and Preference, are liable to Income Tax on any dividends they receive. The individual receives his dividend accompanied by an Income Tax credit. As with the dividend from any other company, the total amount of the dividend and the credit is included in the shareholder's income for tax purposes, but the tax credit is set against any liability to tax on that income.

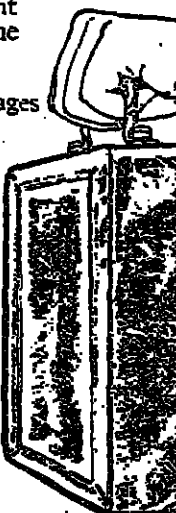
So the shareholder liable to Income Tax at the basic rate has no further tax to pay. And the U.K. shareholder who pays less than the basic rate can recover the difference from the Inland Revenue.

Debt interest or loan stock holders receive their interest less income tax at the basic rate with a certificate of tax deducted. If they do not pay tax, they can claim a refund.

Corporation Tax
In common with other companies an Investment Trust is subject to Corporation Tax. Dividends received by the Trust from U.K. companies, which have themselves paid Corporation Tax on their profits, are not subject to any further tax and can be passed on as dividends to the Trust's shareholders together with the Income Tax credit. The Trust's other income is liable to Corporation Tax. However, payments made by the Trust, such as debt interest, overseas loan interest and management expenses, are deducted from this income before the liability is calculated.

Thus, an Investment Trust's liability to this tax will depend on its capital structure and the investment policy of its directors. In many cases Corporation Tax can be substantially reduced or even eliminated.

The position of non-resident shareholders is especially complex and depends on their status and the Double Taxation agreements with their country of residence.



£4m loss-maker taken over by 20th Century Fox

'Factory' buys Time-Life Films

In the midst of rumours of strife within the top hierarchy at 20th Century Fox, the Hollywood film company agreed in principle last week to acquire the television and film production and distribution divisions of Time-Life Films, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the New York based Time Incorporated.

Details and price of the acquisition were not disclosed, but officials said that actual assets involved are still subject to negotiations. Sources at the film company have indicated that the purchase has come at the right moment, and will bolster the "film factory's" position in the entertainment industry.

Time-Life Films lost \$9m (£4m) in 1980 after taxes, Time

Incorporated said, and another loss is expected this year. Its big current release is the Paul Newman film *Fort Apache: the Bronx*, which is doing well at the box office in the United States where it is being distributed exclusively by 20th Century Fox.

In conjunction with BBC television, Time-Life Films produced *The Ascent of Man* and America and it has distributed the BBC's *Civilisation* series.

The company has a staff of about 100 people, most based in Los Angeles, and for 1981 it has budgeted \$85m (£37m) to make films and television shows.

Two weeks ago, Mr Denis Stiff, chairman and chief executive officer of 20th Century Fox, failed in his attempt

to make his company private. In recent years, the film company had become involved in resort developments and a bottling company, but now, apparently, it is returning to the business it knows best.

A film company analyst pointed out that the acquisition of the Time-Life Film Incorporated assets "makes sense", since Fox already has a distribution organization.

"It would be more profitable for Time to sell the films rather than take the risk of marketing them," the analyst said. "I think we will see Fox continue to expand its asset base through acquisitions."

Ivor Davies
in Los Angeles

PRICE CHANGES

Uses	7p to 145p	8p to 102p
sex Props	7p to 145p	8p to 102p
PU films	7p to 145p	8p to 102p
arc J (Bom)	5p to 61p	8p to 102p
rippers	8p to 128p	8p to 102p
ampson Inds	11p to 10p	8p to 102p

THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.93	Norway Kr	12.75
Canada \$	33.80	Portugal Esc	131.50
Denmark Kr	78.25	South Africa R	12.10
France F	2.82	Spain Ptas	204.59
Germany DM	15.66	Sweden Kr	10.93
Italy Lir	14.86	Switzerland F	4.56
Japan Yen	9.22	USA \$	2.36
Netherlands Gld	11.70	Yugoslavia Dnr	65.50
Sweden S	5.06		
Switzerland F	118.00		
Taiwan NT\$	12.45		
Thailand Baht	1.36		
Turkey Lira	2420.00		
Yugoslavia Dnr	500.00		
	5.51		

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

On March 10 Sir Geoffrey Howe presents his Budget. We have some last minute suggestions for simple but desirable improvements in personal taxation

An open letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer

Dear Sir Geoffrey,
Before you get down to the serious business of practising your speech in front of the bedroom mirror, we thought you might like to consider a few last-minute suggestions.

For the most part we do our best to just try and understand the legislation and then plan accordingly but sometimes we progress from wrestling with how a particular provision works to asking the dangerous question why. We do not think that anything we are suggesting involves any major upheavals or radical changes to the system and with just over three weeks to go before Budget day it is a bit late for grandiose schemes, even if the Revenue could cope with them.

One problem that troubles a lot of people—and we have raised this in this column before—is why some people should have to be faced with such an increased tax bill if they decide to get married. Is it really government policy to encourage people to live in sin?

The age allowance for a single person who has reached the age of 65 is £1,820; for a married couple it is £2,895 and presumably you will be increasing these for the next tax year. The age allowance is not available for people above a given level of income in 1980-81 and it starts to be lost by £2 of allowance for every £3 by which income exceeds £5,900 a year.

This income limit is the same for married and single people, which seems rather bizarre if one considers that normally two people need more income than one (although perhaps not twice as much) and that the system goes some way towards accepting this by giving differential allowances. On this basis

should not the married income limit for 1980-81 have been about £9,400?

A married couple is entitled to a married allowance and the wife's earned income allowance. They also have complete separate taxation for capital transfer tax, each with his and her own set of rates and exemptions. Yet, no allowance is made for investment income surcharge in a marriage. For both married people and single people the threshold for investment income surcharge is £5,500.

Surely it would not cost too much for the logic of the personal allowances structure to be carried through to the threshold for investment income surcharge, so that in 1980-81 a married couple could have had say £8,750 before they became liable to investment income surcharge?

Exactly the same logic applies to the small gains exemption which at present is £3,000 a year. If that is the appropriate level for a single person, then surely married couples should get about £4,750.

Married allowances

None of these three changes affecting married people would appear to involve big alterations to the tax structure. Nor, we would guess, would they involve a very great loss of revenue. We are confident that you would not dream of using the Green Paper on family taxation as an excuse to postpone taking any action whatsoever in this area.

Many people, and you have often said you are one of them, believe that capital gains tax is too harsh, particularly in its effect on many long term gains. You asked the Revenue to consider the possibility of either indexation or

tapering gains, which they did with a singular lack of enthusiasm. Not surprisingly, both these schemes were dismissed on grounds of cost and/or complexity. Yet, the £3,000 a year exemption, though welcome, is hardly adequate.

Why not change the date from which capital gains tax is effective? At present, as you know, the date from which chargeable gains accrue is April 6, 1965. Gains before that date are exempt; after they are fully taxable. If this "doomsday" were moved to say April 6, 1970, then many of the criticisms of capital gains tax would be less valid.

All gains up until that date would be exempt and thereafter they would still be taxable. The existing rules regarding the April 6, 1965 doomsday could be adapted with relatively few changes for the new date.

Of course there would be some valuation problems but (just to get technical for a moment) by using time apportionment more extensively, perhaps even incorporating 1965 valuations into the time apportionment calculation these could be overcome.

On another point altogether, did you know how much the tax system still tends to discriminate against self-employed people despite many helpful changes in recent years. The Finance Act 1980 contained many important and extremely welcome changes for self-employed persons. However, there are still some curious restrictions on the benefits that are available under self-employed pension life assurance cover.

Are you aware that the Revenue takes a very strict interpretation of the law and generally does not allow any extra options to be incorporated into the term assurance? Only level term—or in a few cases family

income benefit—is allowed. The option to increase life cover each year without evidence of health or to convert to another type of policy cannot be incorporated in the terms of the self-employed contract.

In contrast, the controlling director or employee pension scheme can provide life cover which increases in line with inflation or some other index and which can be continued in the form of another type of policy regardless of a person's state of health.

Self-employed abroad

Another irritation arises for self-employed people who work overseas. Many professions—including accountants and solicitors—have to practice as partners or employees of partnerships. If they work abroad it is often not permissible for them to be anything but self-employed. Unfortunately, this means that it is usually much more difficult for them to achieve the status of being not resident and not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom.

On the other hand an employee usually achieves this position by being employed wholly outside the United Kingdom for a full tax year and the income tax and capital gains tax advantages can be very considerable.

Did you know that an employer can provide sickness benefit under a permanent health insurance scheme and (organized in the right way) he should obtain tax relief on the premium and the benefit to the employee if there is a claim will be taxed as earned income?

On the other hand, a person who takes out a permanent health insurance contract himself will normally find that the premiums receive no kind of tax relief and that after a con-

cessionary tax holiday of a year from the date when the benefit starts, the benefit is taxable as investment income. While there are a few ingenious methods of circumventing this problem, it does seem rather unfair.

It is extraordinarily difficult for employees, particularly of unquoted companies, to buy shares in their employing company without falling foul of a particularly vicious piece of legislation. This is contained in the Finance Act, 1972, and was set up to regulate so-called share incentive schemes.

Its effect, unfortunately, is to make many such gains subject to income tax rather than capital gains tax. The new share option share incentive schemes introduced by you and your predecessor are probably excellent in themselves but are really too limited in scope for many senior managers who would like to have a "share of the action".

Of course, many of the thresholds for reliefs, rates and exemptions need bringing up to date. Particularly obvious is capital transfer tax which Dennis Healey did more to alleviate in 1978 than you did last year. There are six bands of tax rates on estates between £50,000 and £160,000 and only three on estates between £160,000 and just over £2m. We would hope that the £2,000 a year exemption would be increased perhaps to £3,000 or even £4,000 a year.

Finally, as taxpayers we would plead for simplicity and lower taxes, even though such qualities tend to be against our professional interests.

Yours sincerely

Danby Bloch and
Raymond Godfrey

Investor's week

Waiting for another interest rate cut

Bad news is no news to investors. Take this coal fiasco, the ridiculing of Mr David Howell, the minister in the middle, the dripping of government wets as they seemingly march to victory.

You would think that gilt-edged stocks would reel as militants in water, gas and power get set to rush through the breach hewn by the miners, elbowing aside the Government's rickety defences against huge increases in public sector pay.

What, it may be asked, stands in the way of further explosions in government spending, borrowing and inflation, to be curbed, however imperfectly, by higher taxes or interest rates?

It was a question the market did not even bother to answer this week as gilt held their ground while the FT index of 30 industrial stocks took a small step back from 493.2 to 488.4.

Investors are transfixed by the assumed cut in minimum lending rate in the Budget on

March 10. Just as important, the £250m or so required to buy off the miners and keep old pits open is nothing against officially inspired estimates that the public sector borrowing requirement will be at least £3,000m for the 1980-81 financial year.

Moreover, there seems to be little scope for a crack in gilt-edged (and hence in shares) as long as yields range up to 14 per cent. This indicates that the gilt-edged market is ready expecting inflation to speed up again one day, and for the Government to continue to pelt it with stock.

With fears of industrial disruption, temporarily laid to rest (and whisper it softly, the Government is getting through the winter of discontent with remarkably little unrest) institutions and private investors dabbled in shares.

They were fortified by further signs of the Government going "soft". Leaks had it that Mrs Thatcher's own personal economic advisor, Professor Alan Walters, wants her to ease

the money squeeze and lower the exchange rate to help industry compete abroad, and hardly a day passed without newspaper reports of ministerial wets pleading with Mrs Thatcher as they feared the electoral implications of a climb to 3 million unemployed.

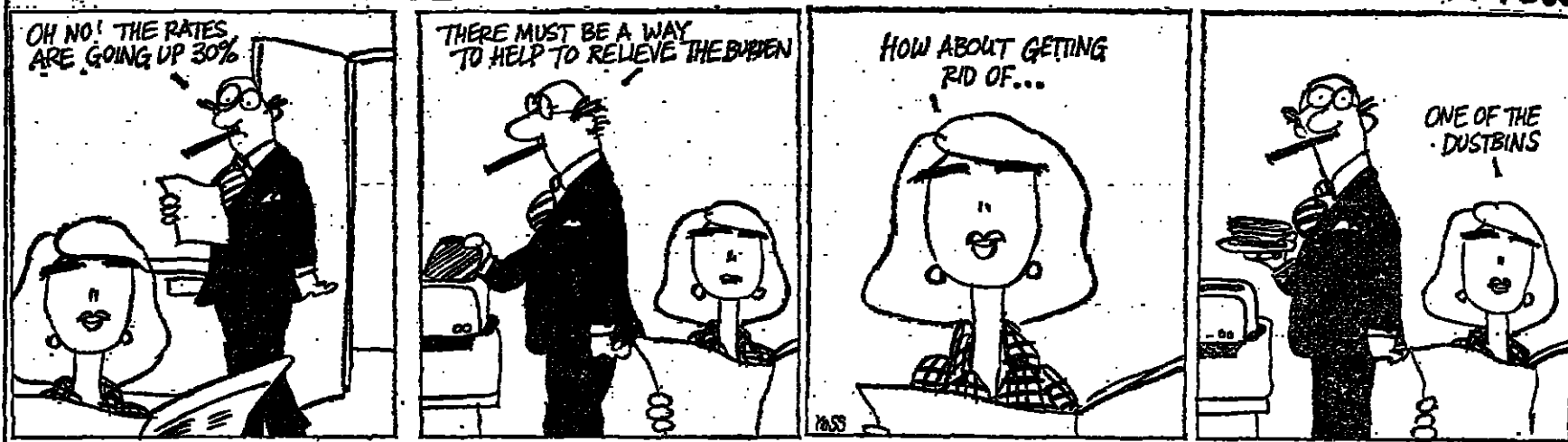
Amunition was at hand. January's record £957m balance of payments surplus on current account reflected a slump in imports brought on by industry's continued and massive destocking. Exports started to wobble as recession caught hold overseas, though they too reached a new peak, but only by value. Meanwhile Central Statistical Office indicators suggested that the trough of our own recession may be this spring.

History shows that shares climb during recession when they look forward to bumper profits and dividends in the new year. They continue to ascend as profits grow at their fastest, which is in the early stages of business recovery. On this view there is some way to go, though one pitfall was suggested by the Charterhouse banking group this week—the possibility of renewed business weakness later this year after industry has topped up its stocks.

Meanwhile, insurance brokers bobbed up on the rise in the new year, and so did the American earnings; and groups such as Rediff and Colman, BAT, Wedgwood and Distillers showed strength for the same reason.

Peter Wainwright

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



Taxation

Black economy and the Revenue's winning way

As the end of the fiscal year approaches, how many of us are considering by what trick of financial legerdemain can we reduce our tax bills? Adding up the little fiddles here, the biggest evasion—used very much the same surveillance techniques as their 1981 counterparts do to detect evasion.

The contrast between overt wealth and declared poverty set the surveyor's nose twitching and sent him backtracking through the maze of the original tax dodgers.

It is notorious that persons living in easy circumstances, may even in apparent affluence, have earned their income under £50 (the ceiling for tax-free income), although their

annual expenditure has been treble that sum, and to whom there was no ground for imputing extravagance.

The early tax inspectors—or surveyors as they were once appropriately called—used very much the same surveillance techniques as their 1981 counterparts do to detect evasion.

The contrast between overt wealth and declared poverty set the surveyor's nose twitching and sent him backtracking through the maze of the original tax dodgers.

It is notorious that persons living in easy circumstances, may even in apparent affluence, have earned their income under £50 (the ceiling for tax-free income), although their

private expenses as business costs.

The 123rd report of the Inland Revenue, in much the same tone of voice as the first, reports that: "A recent in-depth examination of a pig farmer's accounts led to the discovery that the gold-plated taps in his bathroom had been charged in the business accounts as pig pens."

Future tax dodgers should, in fact, be wary of any prospective fiddle involving animals. Another investigation showed that: "The gift of a prize bull to the chairman of a company (the cost being charged as business expenses) is a recent instance of something which should have been declared as a taxable benefit, but was not."

The size and range of the black economy, including both outright evasion and understatement of income but not tax avoidance—which stays within the law, but usually without the spirit of it—as a matter of speculation. Those who work in it naturally aim to cover their tracks.

But there are some footprints they fail to wipe out. Comparison between gross income and expenditure tables throws up a gap between the amount of money we profess to earn—and the amount, more, we actually spend. Other clues can be found from studying cash and cheque transactions.

With these guides and its own information garnered from

specific areas and groups, such as the self-employed, the Inland Revenue believes that it is not plausible to judge that the size of the black economy is 71 per cent of national income, and the tax loss £3,000m to £5,000m.

But tax dodgers will have to work harder to avoid the Revenue's detectives, the taxmen employed in the Inland Revenue's six special offices. Since this investigative division was set up in 1976, the tax take from dodgers has increased from £22m to £91m in 1979 and an estimated £130m last year.

Margaret Stone

National Savings

Queue jumping by post

I wonder if James Littlewood, the Director of National Savings, has recently been caught in a queue at the post office?

The announcement on Wednesday that the Department of National Savings was entering the world of coupon advertising certainly suggests that someone in the hierarchy got fed up with waiting to feed money into his National Savings Bank investment account.

A new facility, "Save-by-Post" will put the National Savings Bank on the same footing as the unit trust groups, unlinked insurance offices, coin dealers and the rest who advertise their wares in the pages of the press.

True, you need to have a National Savings Bank investment account first, but otherwise there is little difference:

you cut out the coupon and send your cheque (with bank book) to the National Savings Bank in Glasgow, by Freepost.

For a savings institution which repeatedly boasts of the number of outlets—some 20,000 Crown and sub-post offices in all—and the fact that they are open on Saturday morning, the new way may seem inconsistent.

Although the NSB is anxious to provide a service for the disabled and elderly who find a trip to even the nearest post office difficult, it also wants to pull in more money with this new arrangement.

The recent increase in the maximum investment account limit to £200,000 means there is a much bigger market to tap of people who want to earn 15 per cent without queuing up for the privilege.

My neighbour has an ornamental tree planted adjacent to a wooden fence (vertical boards) which, because of the great overgrowth of the tree, is being gravely damaged by the latter leaning increasingly upon my fence and swaying markedly in even moderate winds.

I have politely drawn the attention of the owner of the tree to this state of affairs, but the matter has just been "laughed off" by a jocular permission to me to "do whatever you like about it". I am an elderly man and while I could myself cut off the offending branches, the saving up and disposal of same would tax my pitiful resources. I feel that in a fit of mounting anger, I could quite readily saw off the branches which are eroding my property and fence, and push the whole debris over into my neighbour's land. The first effect of which would be to block his entry into his property with his car.

Can I please seek your advice? My neighbour is in a manner of speaking a friend, but is bossy and the fact that he "saw the line at gardening". I should be grateful. (BB, Reading).

The overhanging branches constitute a legal nuisance. You are entitled to enter on your neighbour's land to cut down the nuisance by cutting off those portions of the tree which project over your fence. Strictly you cannot go further beyond the boundary line but as your fence is being struck and damaged by the tree a judge would undoubtedly allow you to cut back sufficiently to prevent contact.

Unfortunately, if you have to get a contractor to do the work you cannot insist your neighbour foots the bill. (But he seems a jovial fellow, so why not send it to him any how? He may pay up). As to the branches you cut off, these remain the property of your neighbour so you must leave them on his land. It will be up to him to clear them away.

You can also (according to modern authority) bring an action against him to compensate you for the repairs to your fence. But if there is no actual damage to your property you cannot claim compensation.

Coping with the trees next door



Readers' Forum
This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of Ronald Irving, John Drummond and Tony Foreman

Your only right then is to cut back the offending branches at your own expense.

My work involves some overseas travel, as a result of which I have been able to claim foreign income deduction in my tax return for the past three years. I would be most grateful for your advice on a letter I have recently received from the Inland Revenue.

The problem arises from overseas earnings which, although earned in one tax year, are in fact paid in the next year. (It typically takes my employer 2-3 months to process overseas allowance claims).

For tax year 1977-78 and 1978-79 the tax inspector treated these overlapping payments as earnings in the tax year in which they were paid. For the tax year 1979-80, however, he has altered his policy and now considers it as income in the year in which it was earned.

sees earnings since May, 1977, on this new basis and concluding that I owed over £200 in back taxes.

I would therefore appreciate your advice on the following two points:

(a) Is the inspector correct in his policy of considering overseas income in the year in which it was earned rather than the year in which it was paid?

(b) Am I obliged to pay additional tax for years back to April, 1977—tax which by the inspector's own admission is due to his own error? (D.G.S., Leighton Buzzard).

The Inland Revenue generally assesses employed persons on the "receipts" basis—in accordance with the remuneration paid by the employer during the year. However, the legally correct basis is the "earnings" basis. Where an employee receives bonuses, etc., which are only paid after the end of the tax year, the Inland Revenue will often apply the earnings basis and these bonuses are then assessed as remuneration of the year in which they were earned.

The application of the earnings basis frequently produces a notional underpayment. The assessment (form P70) will show remuneration earned during the year and PAYE tax deducted in the year. Because bonuses, etc., are paid only after the end of the year, the PAYE tax deducted at that time is not included in the assessment. So the assessments sent to you may not mean that you actually owe £200 to the Inland Revenue. The underpayment may be covered by subsequent tax deductions.

The Inland Revenue are generally able to raise assessments within six years of the end of the tax year concerned. Certain underpayments relating to "official error" are not pursued where the individuals have only limited means. Details of this practice are contained in the free booklet listing extra statutory concessions. However, this concession is unlikely to be of any help to you, as it does not apply where the individual has income of more than £10,000.

Offshore funds

Lure of the distant islands

This week the Britannia Group launched an offshore fund in the Channel Islands, Britannia Gold Fund, available to both United Kingdom residents and non-residents, gives them a chance to invest through professional management in gold bullion, coins and gold futures as well as in gold and mining finance shares.

If the experience of Britannia's offshore funds is anything to go by, the bulk of business attracted by this new fund will come from outside the United Kingdom.

The Channel Islands have established itself as a tax haven for investors from abroad, outside the net of the Inland Revenue. But the tax advantages of investing in an offshore fund rather than a unit trust operating in the United Kingdom have largely gone by the board since the 1980 Finance Act gave valuable tax concessions to United Kingdom based unit trusts.

What the Channel Islands have to offer as an international financial centre is professional knowledge, ease of communication and political stability. Furthermore, funds based there enjoy greater freedom of investment than United Kingdom authorized unit trusts—a fact that is reflected in the 100 different funds that are run there by over 30 management groups.

Funds investing in United Kingdom gilts—the prop of many groups set up in the Channel Islands—offer little advantage over their mainland counterparts since the last Budget changed the prohibitive rules that governed investments in gilts by unit trusts.

Some of these funds are denominated in the currency of the local market which means the investor is fully exposed to the risk of currency movements as well as the fortunes of the stock market.

But what the offshore market can offer is the types of investment which United Kingdom authorized unit trusts are barred from holding. First and foremost are the deposit funds which invest in short-term United Kingdom fixed interest securities and deposits with the purpose of suppressing income in favour of capital gains.

Then there are a handful of international bond funds which spread their portfolios in favoured currencies by investing in fixed interest securities, such as Eurobonds, United Kingdom gilts or United States treasury bills. Or there are a few pure currency funds which are basically like bank accounts with fund managers selecting the appropriate currency and switching around when conditions warrant it.

The more adventurous can make use of professional management to invest directly in commodities through an offshore fund, rather than through the more diluted form of commodity shares to which United Kingdom authorized trusts are limited. This highly volatile investment should form only part of a balanced portfolio of property, equities, and fixed interest securities.

Since the abolition of exchange control regulations in the autumn of 1979, worldwide investment is now readily available to the United Kingdom resident as well as those who go abroad and live or work abroad. But where the repatriate scores is that he can extricate himself from the

United Kingdom tax system where despite reductions by the Tories, the top rate for investment income is still up at 75 per cent.

If you are about to start work abroad, the dots and don'ts on the tax and investment front will look like a jumble. But a book published this week, *The Expatriate's Guide to Savings and Investment*, written for those going to work abroad rather than rich tax exiles leaving our shores for a life richer still elsewhere—will help cut a clear (though expensive at £16.50) road through the undergrowth.

It gives general advice on different types of investments and taxation both in the United Kingdom and abroad, the ground you should cover before you leave and things to be done on the financial front before you return home. It also gives detailed information on all the different offshore funds, not only in the Channel Islands but also other tax havens such as the Isle of Man, Cayman Islands and Bermuda.

If your overseas appointment is accompanied by a jump in salary, do not fall into the pitfall of contractual savings unless you are sure you can carry on paying once you return home.

It is tempting to use a regular premium life assurance policy linked to an offshore fund investment to build up a capital sum. But what happens if your stay abroad—and salary—is suddenly axed and you can no longer afford to pay the premiums? Early surrender of insurance policies does not make good investment sense.

Financial Times Business Publishing, Book Sales Department, Minister House, Arthur Street, London EC4R 9AX.

Sylvia Morris

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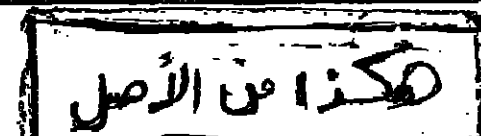
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Foreign exchange report

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PARLIAMENT, February 20, 1981

Bill to extend Sunday trading fails to attract enough support

House of Commons

The Shops Bill which would have provided for an extension of Sunday trading and late night opening failed to get a second reading because its supporters were unable to carry the closure motion at the end of the debate. The closure motion required 100 MPs to vote in favour, but only 48 so voted with 29 against and the debate was adjourned.

Moving the second reading Sir Anthony Meyer (West Ham, C) said the Bill was designed to remove some of the anomalies surrounding Sunday trading and late night opening. It rested on a dual approach, to rationalise and extend modestly the list of things which might be bought and sold on a Sunday in those shops which under present legislation the 1950 Shops Act, were allowed to open, and to allow local authorities to permit the opening of shops in their areas after consultation with those most closely concerned.

It included provisions to protect shopworkers from exploitation as a consequence of the extension of shop hours.

He was not trying to produce a free-for-all on the streets, he said, the cash tills ringing all night in every High Street. He valued Sunday as a day of rest and refreshment different in character from other days.

He knew a number of churches and the Lord's Day Observance Society were opposed to the Bill and he fully respected their point of view. Were it possible to revert, as they would prefer, to a Sunday without any commercial activity, he did not think he would want to resist it, but it was not possible to turn back the clock to that extent.

Thousands of workers had to work on a Sunday and Britain's multiracial society now included hundreds of thousands of Jews, Asians, Arabs and others for whom the special day of the week was not Sunday.

The time had come when it was undeniable to leave the law as it was. The present law was in some areas widely ignored and thus brought into disrepute in others enforced in so arbitrary a manner as to cause injustice to individuals. The present state of affairs was damaging to the economy was shown by the fact that it employed 800,000 workers and earned some £3,000m or more in foreign exchange.

His aim was to make the law more coherent, relevant, respected and to remove all doubt for one moment that it represented anything like an ideal solution nor even that it would remove all anomalies or unfairness, but he believed it was the most practicable solution that could be brought in in present circumstances.

Clause 1 conferred on district councils the right to determine whether shops in their area might open at times now prohibited by the Shops Act, 1950. The council was given complete discretion over the hours of opening and types of merchandise which could be sold late at night or on a Sunday but would have to take reasonable steps to consult shopkeepers, unions, and consumers. He had chosen the method of leaving it to the district councils to accommodate different attitudes which prevailed in different parts of the country.

Clause 2 married the lists of exemptions for late night opening and things which might be sold on a Sunday in the 1950 Act and slightly extended list including, for example, everything sold at a garden centre, but would have to take reasonable steps to consult the owner and his family, at 40 hours. Any hours over this would be considered overtime. Setting a benchmark for employers and it gave unions and workers a peg on which to hang their negotiations for overtime payments.

He suggested the possibility of more flexible shop hours might open up more jobs in retailing and the possibility of negotiating for better terms and conditions for those already employed in the industry.

His Bill might help to make the law just a little bit more sensible.

Opposition from major stores and union

Mr Thomas Torney (Bradford, South, Lab) is sponsoring the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, said that a real purpose of the Bill was to open High Street shops on a Sunday. But the need for that had not been proved.

Because of intense competition, he said, the shops might not want to open on a Sunday, when the law was altered and the fellow down the road or round the corner opened on a Sunday. The need for the trading people in the road could not afford to ignore it if they were going to hold on to their position.

They could not stand by and see their customers flow down the street to their competitors.

The Bill would be doing nothing more than worsen the life of shopworkers, which was already not an easy one. It would also make the Saturday work of shopworkers more difficult than it already was.

It was a fallacy to suggest that more trade could be done and more money would go into the tills if shops opened more hours or more days. The Saturday had only so much money in her purse to spend. With all shops open on Sunday or late at night, there was no more money to spend overall. It would mean that the existing trade was spread over seven days instead of six.

Overhead, the case was running the shops, bound to go up. Retail distribution was one of the biggest users of energy in Britain.

Distribution was the second largest industry in Britain and legislation should not be considered lightly. He had seen shopworkers who had first-hand experience of the conditions workers had to put up with. Legislation to protect shopworkers was necessary.

The retail trade employed a high percentage of female and part-time workers. 70 per cent of the labour force in distribution was formed by women. In retail food nearly half the number of women employed were married and there were social and domestic implications for them in opening on Sundays. The Bill would make conditions worse for workers and it should not have a second reading.

Mr Timothy Sainsbury (Hove, C), a director of the grocery chain, said that the Bill would lead to a widespread extension of Sunday trading, which was undesirable. It was almost a universal practice for supermarkets and food shops to open late at least one day a week. That met the consumer need, and the preference to go shopping at a time when husbands could assist.

If it opened the door, as this Bill did, to Sunday trading, the same competitive pressures would lead to the same widespread extension of trading.

There would be traffic noise from people visiting the shops. How would the employees get to work if they had to use inadequate Sunday transport?

It would be regrettable if there was a widespread extension of the pressure not just on staff, but on the introduction of supervisory staff to be about their work on a Sunday.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South-West, Conservative, C) said, keeping the Sabbath was an important consideration and if it was possible to introduce a Bill which would uniformly abolish Sunday trading he would support it. It was because the present law was more honoured in the breach than in the observance that those whose duty it was to enforce it needed to be sorted out and tidied up.

Mr Edward Graham (Enfield, Labour, Lab) said, the Bill was sponsored by the Co-operative Movement which 10 million people had joined voluntarily.

Mr David Ashdown (Bournemouth, East, C) said the Bill would be welcomed by many shops and traders in tourist areas and he would support it. He said the law at present local authorities could allow some shops to open for a maximum of 18 Sundays a year.

This was restrictive and unnecessary on small businesses in resorts such as Bournemouth which suffered from the loss of trade for holidaymakers and conference-goers all the year round.

The existing law had too long been too conservative, too illogical, too absurd, too unwieldy, to full of loopholes, too often ignored and impossible to enforce. The Bill should satisfy shoppers, traders and public opinion. It would encourage more trade, and new jobs.

Home Office reviewing present trading law

Mr George Cunningham, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Islington, South and Finsbury, Lab) said the Home Office, 1950, was intolerable and had to be changed, not just because of the unacceptability of its illogical but because the situation brought total disrespect for the law.

But if the Bill passed there would in many areas be a considerable addition to the nuisance suffered by residents. It would affect the working condition of shopworkers and the small shopkeeper would almost certainly find that the big boys if they opened would be able to put the small shopkeepers at a disadvantage.

Although the present law could not be tolerated for much longer, there were problems over conditions of work which could not be brushed aside. Without care being taken more problems would be created than removed. He would not support the Bill. The right course was for the Home Office to consider it and consult with the appropriate interests, and bring a report to the House which accepted that the provisions of 1950 had to go.

The House could then debate that report, rather than a Bill, and when it had taken a decision in principle on roughly what changes were wanted there could be a Government or private Member's Bill.

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State, Home Office (Aylesbury, C) said that there had been a long history of legislation going back to the fifteenth century. It had been remarkably difficult to get a degree of consensus about legislation. This debate had not been marked by such consensus.

(continued on page 24)

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Holiday

No. of Nights	Dates	Guaranteed Weekly Rate Per Person
7	7, 14 Mar.	\$109.
7	7, 14 Mar.	\$101.
14	21, 28 Mar.	\$155.
14	21, 28 Mar.	\$123.
7	28 Mar.	\$105.
7	5, 12 Mar.	\$135.
14	12, 19 Mar.	\$175.
7	6, 13 Mar.	\$119.
7	6, 13 Mar.	\$119.
14	6, 13 Mar.	\$135.
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7	4, 11 Mar.	\$125.
7	4, 11 Mar.	\$125.
14	11, 22 Mar.	\$199.

7	14 21 Mar	£149
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14	14, 21 Mar.	\$199
7	1, 8 Mar.	\$125
7	16, 30 Mar.	\$165

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